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Malaysian Minister Urges EAEC Formation at ADB Meeting

BK0605080893 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 0600 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Malaysia has called for the formation of the East Asia Economic Caucus, EAEC, amid the stalemate in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT, talks.

Finance Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim told the Asian Development Bank annual meeting in Manila that the EAEC would enable East Asian nations to emerge as a cohesive and positive force for economic reforms and liberalization. He added that new forums need to be established to forge a common position in influencing the world towards greater openness and arrest protectionist policy.

The minister also assailed the greater disorder in the world economic environment. He said developing nations should not have to suffer from fluctuations in exports and exchange rates forever.

ASEAN Officials To Discuss Key Issues 8-9 May

BK0605035993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 May 93 p B2

[Text] Senior officials of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) are scheduled to meet for the first time this year on May 8-9 in Jakarta to discuss four issues, including the canned tuna import quota for the European Community.

The other three issues are the abolition of five subcommittees of the Asean secretariat, progress of the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta); and the green aid plan of Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

According to Karun Kittisatapon, director of the Office for Coordination International Economic Affairs, senior Asean officials will have to find a resolution during the upcoming meeting during which they should ask the EC to increase canned tuna imports from Asean.

Starting from this year, the EC has introduced a global quota for canned tuna imports totalling 74,000 tonnes annually. The introduction of a global quota has crippled chances of Asean exporters to enlarge exports.

Asean officials have different opinions on the issue.

The Philippines thinks Asean should raise the issue at the multilateral talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Thailand and Indonesia however think that Asean should seek bilateral talks with the EC.

The second issue Asean officials will have to work out is cooperation to continue Asean programmes in the absence of a sub-committee.

It is expected that Asean officials will set up a working group for specific issues.

During the summit in Singapore last year, Asean leaders abolished five subcommittees under the Asean secretariat and assigned senior Asean officials to handle the existing programmes.

The five-committees were the Committee on Trade and Tourism the Committee on Finance and Banking; the Committee on Food Agriculture and Forestry, the Committee on Transport and Communication; and the Committee on Industry Minerals and Energy.

Asean officials will also discuss the progress of Afta. Asean has begun the process of lowering tariffs on Asean manufactured goods in internal trade to the maximum of five per cent within 15 years.

Senior Asean officials will go through the green aid plan granted by the Japanese government to Asean. MITI will help transfer technology to the manufacturing sectors of Asean countries, especially in environmental treatment.

Senior Asean officials had planned to meet once every two months. But since some countries were not ready, the meeting for this year was delayed.

ROK-ASEAN Dialogue To Open 11 May in Malaysia

SK0605082593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0625 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) open their first bilateral dialogue May 11-13 in Malaysia, the Foreign Ministry announced Friday.

The session, the first since Korea became a full dialogue partner in July 1991, will cover six sectors, Ministry officials said.

ASEAN, which groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore, holds regular dialogue on trade, investment, tourism, development, technology transfer and manpower development.

Next week's session will be participated in by the Korea-ASEAN Business Council for talks on private-level industrial cooperation.

Seoul has pledged 8 million U.S. dollars for a special cooperation fund with ASEAN between 1990 and 1994.

Japan

MITI Official: U.S. Unilateral Trade Action 'Regrettable'

OW0605072793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0653 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 6 KYODO—Japan's vice trade minister expressed Thursday regret at U.S. warnings to retaliate against what it perceives as the closed Japanese market.

Yuji Tanahashi, vice minister international trade and industry, told a news conference, "this kind of unilateral measure is regrettable."

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor on Friday announced a fresh review of Japan's purchase program of supercomputers under Section 306 of a U.S. Trade Act, warning that the United States will retaliate unless U.S. companies gain a fair share of the Japanese market.

Tanahashi claimed that the Japanese government's procurement of supercomputers was done "fairly and transparently."

"I don't understand the U.S. government's intention," he said.

Tanahashi said his ministry will seek an explanation from the United States.

"We are ready to accept sector-by-sector trade negotiations," as agreed to between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, he said.

Firms Claim Kantor Mistaken on Supercomputer Issue

OW0605005293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0038 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Washington, May 5 KYODO—U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor again pushed for a tough trade policy toward Japan on Wednesday [5 May], saying the United States wants "concrete, measurable" results in bilateral trade talks.

Kantor identified six industrial areas, all in the high-technology field, for increased U.S. exports to Japan under an "industry by industry" formula in assessing the openness of the Japanese market.

"We seek mutuality of obligation and comparability of action," Kantor said in an address to the National Press Club.

Continuing the tough posture he has displayed since coming to office, Kantor made it clear that Washington will not tolerate "political, social and commercial practices and attitudes" that impede sales of U.S. products and services in the Japanese market.

Last Friday, Kantor gave Japan two months to negotiate a deal for better access to the Japanese construction market or face retaliation from the United States.

Kantor also accused Japan of discriminating against U.S. firms in government bids for supercomputers and said Tokyo must act "fairly" or face U.S. sanctions.

In his address Wednesday, Kantor cited the Japanese construction and supercomputer markets as two examples of "deep-rooted political, social and commercial practices and attitudes that gravely distort the workings of a free and open international trading system."

Critics have charged that Kantor's complaints about the Japanese construction and supercomputer markets are disingenuous.

Japanese industry sources say Japanese companies face more obstacles in selling supercomputers to the U.S. Government than U.S. suppliers face in Japan.

Japanese construction firms do approximately the same amount of business with the U.S. federal government as U.S. firms handle in Japan, they say.

Kantor also indicated that Washington wants to target high-tech industries for increased exports to Japan, noting that the bulk of Japanese exports to the U.S. were focused in six industry sectors: autos, auto parts, semiconductors, electronics, computers and supercomputers.

Kantor cited supercomputers apparently by mistake, as Japanese companies say they have so far sold only two supercomputers in the United States.

While contending that the world must tear down trade barriers, Kantor indicated that the U.S. is still reviewing whether or not to raise tariffs on minivan imports through a reclassification of the tariff schedule.

President Bill Clinton has spoken in favor of higher tariffs—from 2.5 to 25 percent—for minivans and other utility vehicles, a move pushed by the "Big Three" U.S. automakers.

Japan, the main exporter of minivans to the United States, has criticized the tariff reclassification move, saying it violates international trade rules.

Kantor acknowledged Wednesday that the minivan issue is "complicated" and involves "numerous ramifications."

Central Bank Said Buying Dollars To Cap Yen Rise

OW0605091093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0606 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 6 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) apparently intervened in the Tokyo currency market Thursday [6 May] to keep the Japanese currency from piercing the 110 yen line against the U.S. dollar, market sources said.

Substantial sales of yen for dollars, believed to be by the central bank, were noted shortly after the market started the afternoon session, when the dollar was trading at around 110.20 yen.

The sources said the BOJ action is designed to show "strong willingness not to allow the yen to enter the 109 yen level."

In defiance of determination expressed at a recent meeting in Washington by the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations to stabilize the tumultuous foreign exchange market, Tokyo players drove the yen higher Thursday, the first trading day after the "Golden Week" holidays.

The G-7 pact was viewed as a kind of victory by the Japanese government to win support for its campaign against a further run-up of the yen, which other nations had welcomed as a way of cutting Japan's chronic trade surplus but Tokyo regards as damaging to the national economy.

The dollar was changing hands at 110.28 yen as of 2 P.M., down 0.82 yen from the 111.10 yen close in Tokyo last Friday.

Ministry To Continue Negotiations on Yeltsin Visit

OW0605052293 Tokyo NHK Radio in Japanese 2200 GMT 5 May 93

[From the "News" program]

[Text] It has been revealed that Russian President Boris Yeltsin has once again canceled his planned visit to Japan in late May and that there are currently no plans to reschedule the visit. Russian presidential spokesman Anatoliy Krasikov told NHK on 5 May that President Yeltsin's visit to Japan scheduled in May will be postponed based on an agreement between the two nations. Saying that no agreement has been made on rescheduling the visit, the spokesman disclosed that the visit scheduled for around 25 May—for which diplomatic officials from both nations have been making preparations based on President Yeltsin's intentions—will be postponed indefinitely.

The President's Office has made no formal announcement about reasons for the repeated postponement; however, it has informed the Russian news media that news reports should emphasize the fact that the decision was not initiated by President Yeltsin, but was reached in an accord between Japan and Russia. The President's Office has also noted that it would be desirable to exercise as much reservation as possible in reporting this news.

The territorial issue was the reason for the postponement of Yeltsin's planned visit to Japan last September, and this time, the territorial issue is again the major reason for the decision to postpone the visit. After the territorial issue was separated from the decision on Russian aid at a meeting of the seven major industrialized nations held last month, President Yeltsin disclosed his intention to visit Japan. However, when consultations were held between Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze and the Russian [as heard] Foreign Ministry in Tokyo in late April on preparations for the visit, Japan conveyed its persistent intention to bring up the territorial issue at the summit talks. This information is believed to be the cause of the current decision.

Moreover, following the national referendum held on 25 April, the confrontation between the pro-Yeltsin forces and the conservatives has resulted in bloodshed. Under the circumstances, it would be difficult for President Yeltsin to leave the country now, and this fact has been cited as the official reason for the postponement.

In response, the Japanese Foreign Ministry observes that although diplomatic authorities from both nations have agreed to continue consultations on working for Yeltsin's visit to Japan at an early date, the schedule for the planned Yeltsin visit in late May was never confirmed. The source also maintained that it is likely that the president canceled his visit to Japan because he has gradually become negative about the original plan of visiting Japan in late May due to the fact that while preparing for the visit to Japan, he noted that prospects for settling the pending territorial issue are not necessarily promising and that the conservatives, with the Russian parliament playing a leading role, have indicated strong opposition.

The Japanese Government believes that so as to settle the territorial issue and conclude a peace treaty, thus normalizing diplomatic relations between the two nations, Yeltsin's early visit to Japan is a task that cannot be avoided. Therefore, it plans to directly sound out Russia's intentions through diplomatic channels as early as today and it intends to continue negotiations with the Russian Government.

Officials Deny Agreeing To Postpone Visit

OW0605041793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0331 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 6 KYODO—Japanese officials Thursday [6 May] denied that Tokyo has agreed to postpone a visit here by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. "We have not heard of any such proposal from the Russian side," said a source in the Foreign Ministry. "There was no agreement."

The source was responding to comments by Russian presidential spokesman Anatoliy Krasikov, who said in Moscow that a decision to postpone Yeltsin's visit was based on an agreement between Russia and Japan.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa indicated that the Japanese Government is waiting for an official notice from Russia. He told reporters that the Russian Government will probably offer an explanation soon.

Yeltsin was scheduled to visit Tokyo last September, but the trip was abruptly called off. The Russian leader first cited domestic problems as the reason for canceling the trip. Later, however, Yeltsin blamed Tokyo's tough stand on the return of four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido which were seized by the Soviet Red Army at the end of World War II.

In April, Yeltsin said he would reschedule a visit to Japan for late May and sent Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze to Tokyo to discuss the visit. However, in unofficial talks between Kunadze and Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito, the two sides failed to narrow the gap over the longstanding territorial dispute, Russian Government sources said.

Because of those differences, Japanese officials have expressed concern that even if Yeltsin does come in May, the visit may not be considered a success.

Muto Denies Agreement on Postponement

OW0605072593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0656 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 6 KYODO—Foreign Minister Kabun Muto on Thursday denied Russian suggestions that Japan has agreed to a postponement of a proposed may visit to Tokyo by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival at Narita Airport from a tour of Latin American countries, Muto said he is seeking clarification through diplomatic channels of the Russian suggestion.

Asked if he thought the postponement will have any impact on Russian-Japanese relations, Muto said, "We weren't for our part saying he must come, so I don't think so."

Muto was responding to comments by Russian presidential spokesman Anatoliy Krasikov, who said in Moscow on Wednesday that a decision to postpone Yeltsin's may visit was based on an agreement between Russia and Japan.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa earlier indicated that the Japanese government is waiting for official notification from Russia about the reported postponement.

Miyazawa told reporters that the Russian government will probably offer an explanation soon.

Yeltsin was originally scheduled to visit Tokyo last September, but called off the trip at the last minute.

The Russian leader first cited domestic problems as the reason for canceling the trip. Later, however, Yeltsin blamed Tokyo's tough stand on seeking the return of four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido which were seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

In April, Yeltsin said he would reschedule his visit to Japan for late May and sent Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze to Tokyo to discuss the visit.

Kunadze and Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito, however, failed in unofficial talks to narrow the gap over the territorial dispute, Russian government sources said.

Tokyo Assigns 41 To Work as Cambodian Monitors

OW0605064393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0559 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 6 KYODO—Japan on Thursday [6 May] assigned 41 people to work as election monitors in Cambodia, despite Tuesday's killing of a Japanese police officer there, government officials said. The 41 Japanese, mainly volunteers from the private sector and local autonomous bodies, will work as members of a United Nations-organized international team of civilian election monitors for the Cambodian general election scheduled for May 23-28.

Assignation papers will be handed over to the civilian election workers on May 10 in a formal ceremony at the Prime Minister's Office, government officials said. The volunteers will then fly to Phattaya in Thailand on May 12 to undergo UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]-organized training as election monitors before heading for Cambodia, the officials said.

Japan originally planned to send 50 monitors in response to a U.N. request. But nine volunteers, including seven municipal government officials, withdrew their applications to work as election monitors after unknown attackers shot dead Atsuhito Nakata, a 25-year-old Japanese U.N. volunteer on April 8 in Kompong Thom, officials said. More volunteers for the election-monitoring mission may drop out before their scheduled departure on May 12, the officials said.

On Tuesday, Haruyuki Takata, a civilian police officer working as part of Japan's peacekeeping contingent in Cambodia, was shot dead in an ambush on U.N. peacekeepers near Cambodia's border with Thailand. Four other Japanese police officers and five Dutch Marines were wounded in the attack as they were patrolling the region as part of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) peacekeeping operation.

WHO Reelects Nakajima as Director General

OW0605022593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0137 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Geneva, May 5 KYODO—World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Hiroshi Nakajima was reelected to the post Wednesday [5 May] at an annual assembly. Nakajima, 64, was reelected by a majority of 93 delegates to 58 against, with six abstentions.

Nakajima retained the post despite strong opposition from a number of Western countries in the WHO membership which have criticized his personal style and management methods. At an executive board meeting in January, these countries nominated former Deputy Director General Mohamed Abdelmoumene [name as received] of Algeria as a replacement candidate for the director generalship. But Nakajima garnered 18 votes from Asian, African and Latin American members of the 31-member board to retain his nomination.

Throughout the campaign, the Japanese Government strongly backed Nakajima, enabling him to garner a considerable number of votes from developing countries. Nakajima became the first Japanese to assume the post in July 1988.

At a press conference after his reelection, Nakajima acknowledged the criticism from his opponents, but said he wants to incorporate this into constructive improvements in the running of WHO.

Nakajima promised to set up a group of advisers to improve efficiency, as foreshadowed in a speech to the assembly on Tuesday when he also promised improvements in the accounting deficiencies identified by an external audit of the organization's affairs. The audit identified six cases where contracts were awarded to executive board members, although Nakajima was not directly involved in the awarding process.

Nakajima said he will temporarily leave vacant the post of deputy director general and institute in its place a consultative body whose members would each have the rank of assistant deputy director general.

Responding to criticism of his managerial style, Nakajima said he would use his next five-year term to institute organizational reforms guaranteeing the open distribution of funding. He said he will report the results of the reforms to the assembly within a year.

Tokyo To Propose Rules for Cross-Border Broadcasting

OW0605091193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0550 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 6 KYODO—Japan plans to propose that Asian countries work out rules for cross-border satellite broadcasting to avoid possible political and cultural frictions, government officials said Thursday.

The officials of the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry said the proposal will be put forward at the first Asian forum of broadcasting regulators to be held in Tokyo in June.

The proposed rules will be patterned after similar ones set by the European Community Commission for cross-border broadcasting in Europe, the officials said.

They said the proposal may be snubbed by China and Malaysia, which have bans on viewing cross-border television programs.

Japan's move comes as China, Taiwan, South Korea and Indonesia are expected to launch telecommunications satellites in the next few years, marking the advent of a borderless age for telecasting.

The officials said the ministry is concerned that cross-border television broadcasting may cause frictions among neighboring nations.

Current Account Surplus for 1992 Sets Record

OW0605073993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0722 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 6 KYODO—Japan's current account surplus in fiscal 1992, ended March 31, surged 39.7 percent from the year before to a record 126.08 billion dollars, the Finance Ministry said Thursday.

The rise reflects the yen's rise in value against the U.S. dollar and the sluggish domestic economy. The previous record current account surplus was 94.14 billion dollars in fiscal 1986.

The trade surplus came to 136.05 billion dollars, jumping 19.7 percent from the previous fiscal year.

Imports rose 0.5 percent to 199.31 billion dollars in value, reflecting poor demand for foreign goods as business conditions remaining lackluster, and exports gained 7.5 percent to 335.36 billion dollars.

For March alone, the current account surplus posted a year-on-year increase of 38.3 percent to a record 19.09 billion dollars.

The previous monthly record surplus of 14 billion dollars was posted in March 1992.

March's trade surplus rose 20.2 percent to 15.59 billion dollars, as imports moved up 10.1 percent to 18.24 billion dollars and exports rose 14.5 percent to 33.83 billion dollars.

Finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations agreed in a meeting in Washington last week on the need to stimulate world economic growth and called on Japan to stimulate its domestic demand so as to trim its large trade surplus.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen told a news conference after the G-7 meeting that Japan needs to further spur its domestic demand and called the 13.2 trillion yen fiscal stimulus package announced in April was only a welcome first step.

Japan's large trade surplus "remains a drag on growth," Bentsen said.

On Wednesday, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor stressed in Washington that the U.S. will not tolerate "political, social and commercial practices and attitudes" that impede sales of U.S. goods and services in Japan.

But despite such harsh criticisms from its largest trading partner, economists project Japan's surplus is not likely to ease for the time. They say it will take time for imports to recover steadily, as the Japanese economy is expected to be slow to recover from its current slump.

Soichi Enkyo, a senior economist at the Bank of Tokyo, said it will take more than a year for the benefits of the appreciation of the yen—which makes imports cheaper—to be passed on to consumers.

Viewed from a shorter-term perspective, the so-called J-curve effect, stemming from the higher yen against the dollar, will boost Japan's exports denominated in the U.S. currency. The J-curve refers to how a change in the value of exports would appear on a graph after a rise in the exporting country's currency.

It usually takes about six months to a year for a currency's appreciation to begin to erode the price-competitiveness of the nation's products, Enkyo said.

Finance Ministry: Foreign Reserves at $77 Billion

OW0605091293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 6 KYODO—Japan's foreign currency reserves stood at 76,929 million dollars at the end of April, up 6,884 million dollars from March, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) said Thursday [6 May].

It was the largest month-to-month increase in reserves since April 1987.

The expanded figure was believed to be due to a considerable amount of dollar buying against the yen by the Bank of Japan, which aimed to put a cap on the yen's sharp rise.

On April 21, the dollar dropped to a postwar intraday low of 109.90 yen on the Tokyo foreign exchange market.

Foreign currency reserves topped the 70 billion dollar level for the second consecutive month.

Chamber Studies Passing on Foreign Exchange Profits

OW0605100593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0933 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 6 KYODO—Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said Thursday [6 May] the chamber is studying ways to pass foreign exchange gains on to consumers.

"Price differentials at home and overseas are major problems and (we) are studying how to pass exchange gains to end users," Ishikawa told a news conference.

The U.S. dollar closed at a postwar record low of 110.19 yen in Tokyo on Thursday.

Norio Ohga, vice chairman of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said consumers should be allowed to benefit from the strong yen.

Miyazawa: 'Almost No Growth' in Fiscal 1992 Exports

OW0605123793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1221 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 6 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Thursday [6 May] that Japanese exports in fiscal 1992 posted "almost no growth" in terms of volume.

Miyazawa made the remarks to reporters at his official residence in response to an announcement earlier in the day that Japan posted record-high trade and current-account surpluses in the fiscal year ended in March.

He said the figures are "only in value terms" and that "restraints are working in terms of export volume."

Miyazawa Endorses LDP Plan To Reshape Diet Chambers

OW0605122993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1200 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 6 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Thursday endorsed a proposal to simultaneously introduce a single-seat constituency system in the House of Representatives and a proportional representation system in the House of Councillors, ruling party officials said.

Prime Minister Miyazawa gave nod to the proposal in a meeting with Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama, the officials said.

The endorsement marked a departure from the LDP's earlier stance to introduce a system of single-seat constituencies in the lower house with a total of 500 seats.

Kajiyama, an influential leader in the ruling party, told Miyazawa the LDP will back away from a proposal by a private council, which sought to bridge the gap between the LDP's proposed reform bills and a similar plan jointly submitted by the two top opposition parties, the Social Democratic Party [of Japan, SDPJ] (SDP) and Komeito, the officials said.

The council, comprising industry, labor and media leaders, has proposed cutting the number of lower house seats from 512 to 500, with 300 legislators elected through a single-seat constituency system and the remaining 200 through proportional representation in each of the 47 prefectures across the country.

The proposal by the two opposition parties seeks a combination of a system of 200 single-seat constituencies and 300 seats elected from a proportional representation system in the lower house.

Kajiyama will try to persuade the opposition to back the LDP's new proposal in a series of negotiations that are expected to resume Monday, the officials said.

Kajiyama has explained his proposal to Deputy Prime Minister and concurrently Justice Minister Masaharu

Gotoda, former cabinet minister Toshio Komoto, former LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi and other LDP senior officials.

Kajiyama told reporters during his April visit to South Korea that he hoped to gain support for the new proposal.

The LDP and the opposition will be forced to adopt a compromise plan before the end of the ordinary Diet session, which ends June 20, political analysts said.

Rengo Chairman Discusses Future of Political Reform

OW0605041493

[Editorial Report] Naha OTV Television in Japanese at 2230 GMT on 1 May carries a 60-minute relay of the weekly "News 2001" program aired by Tokyo FNN Television Network in Japanese. The special guest is Akira Yamagishi, chairman of the Japan Trade Union Confederation [Rengo]. During the program, moderators Yuji Kuroiwa and Kaori Matsuyama and regular guests—freelance commentator Kenichi Takemura and Keio University Professor Yoshiaki Kobayashi—interview Yamagishi on the future of political reform.

At the beginning of the program, Yamagishi stresses: "Political reform must be carried out within the current Diet session at any rate." When asked about the primary purpose of political reform, Yamagishi states: "Political scandals and voters' strong distrust of existing parties have caused a crisis within Japan's parliamentary democracy. The root cause of the crisis is the Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] prolonged rule; however, this is not the LDP's fault. The blame should be placed on the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] and other opposition parties because the opposition has been unable to replace the LDP. In line with this, the primary purpose of political reform is to establish a political system that will make it possible for a party to take power."

Yamagishi adds: "In the past, political parties were classified as conservatives and the opposition. But I think that today, in the post-cold war period, these classifications are outdated. I believe that the political parties should be placed into two categories—a group in favor of producers and a group supported by consumers—and that it is most desirable for these groups to compete with each other and to promote a reform of Japanese politics through a two-party system."

In response to a question from Kobayashi on future policies on energy and the security issue, Yamagishi answers: "The opposition parties have had different policies on the four major issues—the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, Self-Defense Forces [SDF], nuclear power plants, and relations with South Korea. I think that on the whole, we have arrived at a conclusion on these issues. In other words, our position is that we positively assess the historical role of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and that we admit the further existence of the treaty. However, in light of the current situation after the collapse of the cold war, it is desirable for Japan and the United States to change the character of their relations, shifting from militarily allied relations to economically allied relations. I do not think anybody opposes this view. As for the SDF, a question of whether the SDF is constitutional or unconstitutional is still the focus of controversy. Even the Supreme Court is still unable to make a decision on this issue. For that reason, I think the view on this issue is divided."

Asked about a possible alliance of the SDPJ with other parties that share common policies on the four major issues, Yamagishi stresses: "I think there is a possibility of uniting with all of the non-LDP parties except the Japan Communist Party [JCP]." Yamagishi expresses the hope that new political groups within the LDP, such as the Hata faction, will separate from the LDP to unite with other parties; he notes, however, that a concurrence of basic policies is a precondition for an alliance with other parties. Touching on the compromise plan for electoral system reform [cutting the number of Lower House seats to 500 from the current 512, with 300 legislators elected through the single-seat system and the remaining 200 through proportional representation] proposed by a private council, which holds the key to the regrouping of political parties, Yamagishi says: "I do want the ruling and opposition parties to study the compromise plan, although it needs some adjustment, and to reach an agreement through debates in the Diet after the holidays. If a compromise agreement is reached, it will be more likely that the single-seat electoral system will be introduced to the Lower House in some form. I think an agreement would trigger a regrouping of political parties."

North Korea

Reportage on DPRK's Withdrawal From Nuclear Treaty

Daily's Article Shows U.S. as 'Culprit'

SK0605014493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0023 GMT 6 May 93

[NODONG SINMUN 6 May commentary: "Revelation of the Real Culprit's True Nature"]

[Text] According to reports, the United States' THE WASHINGTON POST recently revealed that the United States provided the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] Secretariat with so-called reconnaissance satellite photos proving North Korea's [puk choson] nuclear development. This interests people since it is the first time a major U.S. newspaper reported this fact.

This means that the United States has formally acknowledged that it made the IAEA adopt the decision on unjust special inspection of the DPRK by systemically providing the IAEA with fabricated information. It has been revealed to the world yet again that none other than the United States is the true culprit that is trying to open our military sites [kunsa taesang] and to disarm us by using some quarters of the IAEA.

We have made it clear on many occasions that our Republic decided to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] because of U.S. nuclear threats and maneouvers to pressure us.

While strengthening its nuclear threats aimed at crushing our Republic, the United States has maneuvered to disarm us by using some quarters of the IAEA.

Violating authorized international laws and regulations, the United States has intervened in the IAEA Secretariat' business and contrived to make it break away from the principle of fairness. It also forced the IAEA to conduct special inspection of our ordinary military sites, which have no relations to nuclear activities.

In order to make the IAEA's decision on special inspection authentic, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency provided the IAEA Secretariat with fabricated photo materials alleged to be obtained from its satellite.

Some officials of the IAEA Secretariat recklessly violated IAEA regulations and the Nuclear Safeguard Accord which stipulate that information and data provided by a third country cannot be used. They then committed the vile act of adopting the resolution on special inspections of our facilities.

The United States and some IAEA Secretariat officials are no longer in a position to justify and cover up their unreasonable acts.

In the past period, we positively tried to respect the IAEA's demand for nuclear inspections and to sincerely implement the Nuclear Safeguard Accord. In addition, we warned, on several occasions, that some officials of the IAEA Secretariat were following the United States, a belligerent party to the DPRK, in a biased manner.

Our consistent stance exposing and denouncing the unjustness of the IAEA's demand for special inspections due to its reliance on a third country's fabricated information and data was verified by the the U.S. paper's article.

In fact, as recognized in world opinion, the United States, its following forces, and some IAEA Secretariat officials are recklessly maneuvering to infringe upon our national sovereignty and the supreme interests of the country by even violating the NPT ideal. Under such circumstances, we could not but take the self-defensive measure of withdrawing from the NPT.

While claiming to be the only superpower in the world, the United States dominates the IAEA according to its own will. It has been engaged in acts of tyranny and privilege. It fabricated the unjust resolution of special inspections against our country which possesses no nuclear weapons. The United States should repent for such acts. It should also try to resolve the nuclear issue through negotiations.

Some officials of the IAEA Secretariat should also learn a lesson from this. Devoid of fairness and independence, the IAEA Secretariat has maneuvered to impose unjust pressure and sanctions on us by joining the U.S. strategic plot to stifle [apsal] our Republic. The IAEA Secretariat should frankly recognize and apologize for such acts. In addition, it should immediately invalidate its resolution on special inspections which they adopted without any validity or real evidence.

Daily: Pyongyang Consistently Antinuclear

SK0605110793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 6 May 93

["DPRK's Consistent Stand of Anti-nuke and Peace"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today, clarifying again the DPRK's stand of anti-nuke and peace, brands as a despicable brigandish criminal act the attempt of the United States and some hostile forces to sling mud at the DPRK's peaceful nuclear policy and stigmatize it as a "nuclear criminal" by fabricating things and to impose "international sanctions and pressure" upon the DPRK and stifle it.

The DPRK has made strenuous efforts to prevent a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and realize denuclearization in this region, the article says, and goes on:

As proved already, the DPRK's nuclear program assumes peaceful character. It is, in essence, chiefly aimed at using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes to develop the economy and science and technology and improve the people's living.

The honesty of the DPRK's peaceful nuclear policy is well illustrated by the fact that it joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, signed the safeguards agreement and sincerely fulfilled its obligations under the treaty.

After the safeguards agreement came into force the DPRK submitted a necessary document on nuclear material to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) early in May last year, earlier than the set time, allowed the inspection team of the agency to see all nuclear-related facilities and sites and confirm relevant documents.

Even after taking a self-defensive measure of withdrawing from the treaty, the DPRK repeatedly manifested its willingness to implement its duty under the nuclear safeguards agreement.

It also made a proposal for negotiation concerning the implementation of obligations on its part and exerted efforts to carry it into practice right before the United States and its followers unjustifiably decided to transfer its "nuclear problem" to the United Nations. Consistent is the stand of the DPRK to implement its obligations under the safeguards agreement and seek a negotiated solution to the problems raised in this regard.

The peaceful nature of the DPRK's nuclear policy is also fully proved by the fact that it has waged a vigorous struggle to get all the nuclear weapons and nuclear bases withdrawn from South Korea, remove the danger of nuclear war and denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

The DPRK which is deeply concerned for the fate of the nation takes it as its important task to make the Korean peninsula, a most dangerous nuclear hotspot, a nuclear-free, peace zone.

The DPRK will as ever struggle vigorously to get all nuclear weapons out of South Korea, denuclearize the Korean peninsula and preserve world peace under the banner of anti-nuke and peace.

ROK, U.S. Stage 'Aerial War Exercises' 3-4 May

SK0605054693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean puppets staged provocative joint air war exercises directed against the North in the skies above Muju, Umsong, Yangpyong and Yongwol, South Korea, on May 3 and 4 with the mobilisation of over 360 warplanes of various types, according to military sources.

The exercises on May 4 included mid-air refuelling.

U.S. Pastor Continues Visit to Pyongyang

Meets Vice Premier

SK0605054093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam met and conversed with U.S. Pastor N. Graham and his entourage at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on May 5.

Brings Gift for Kim Il-song

SK0605111293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a gift from U.S. religious leader the Rev. Billy Graham.

It was handed to Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam by Pastor N. Graham who is visiting Korea.

Brings Gift for Kim Chong-il

SK0605111393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from U.S. religious leader the Rev. Billy Graham.

It was handed to Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam by Pastor N. Graham on a visit to Korea.

Received by Kim Il-song

SK0605111593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1045 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received U.S. Pastor N. Graham and his entourage on a visit to Korea.

Present on the occasion were Kim Yong-nam, vice-premier and foreign minister, and Ko Ki-chun, secretary general of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Korean Christians Federation.

President Kim Il-song conversed with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

He arranged a luncheon for them.

Reunification Group Denounces ROK Premier

SK0505043093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0308 GMT 5 May 93

[Press statement by spokesman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland at the National Assembly session on 3 May—read by announcer]

[Text] The South Korean prime minister reportedly stated on 3 May at a plenary session of the National Assembly that he has no will to abolish the National Security Law and will continue to maintain the law as it stands unless there is a decisive change in the North's attitude toward the South. His statement on continuously maintaining the National Security Law, linking it with us, is similar to the remarks uttered by the military dictators of the former Fifth and Sixth Republics.

The National Security Law, a legacy of the era of confrontation, is an antidemocratic, antireunification, and fascist evil law which should have already been abolished. Attempting to continously maintain the antireunification evil law, which the successive South Korean regimes abused in blocking the people's just activities for independence, democracy, and reunification and in inspiring North-South confrontation and national division, only leads us to doubt the present regime's will for reunification and reforms.

The South Korean prime minister's clamoring about a decisive change in our attitude and the like this time is a thoughtless and unreasonable act.

As is well known, we adopted and announced the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation at the Fifth Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly convened on 7 April and, thus, took a new epochal nation-saving measure to find a way out of the grim and difficult situation prevailing in the country through the united strength of the entire nation. We have opened the road toward reunification.

Clarified in the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation are the nation's common will for national reunification and the reasonable ways for the North, the South, and overseas to end the history of division and confrontation which has continued for half a century and to unite as one nation and to open the road of reunification together, transcending all differences.

Therefore, all fellow countrymen in the North, the South, and overseas who love the country and the nation have unanimously risen in the struggle for the realization of the 10-point program for great unity of the whole nation, enthusiastically supporting and welcoming it as the great charter for national unity and as the encouraging banner for reunification in the 1990's.

The announcement of the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation is an expression of our patriotic and nation-loving stand toward the country's peace and its peaceful reunification.

To deliver our position, we sent a letter with the 10-point program for the great unity of the whole nation to the South Korean authorities. We urged in the letter that the South Korean authorities should positively respond to the 10-point program for the great unity of the whole nation.

Because we already put forth the constructive proposal, it is high time that South Korea should respond to the proposal.

Instead of giving a due answer, however, the South Korean prime minister said that our attitude should change. What on earth does this mean?

Evading one's own duty and criticizing others is an unreasonable attitude. It is the South Korean authorities, not the North, that should change its attitude. While making insidious remarks and provoking us, he said that the National Security Law, which has been denounced as an antidemocratic and antireunification evil law, should be maintained as it is. This is as good as the evil practices conducted by the military rascals during the Fifth and Sixth Republics.

Worse still, the South Korean prime minister said that there is no plan to rescind the National Security Law even at the National Assembly. This is neither appropriate for the so-called civilian-controlled politics advocated by the new regime, nor is consistent with its reform policy.

We cannot but say that it is Hwang In-song, who has let loose with a string of rubbish similar to that of former fascist regimes, that should be the target of reform. Can he become the prime minister of the new regime and let loose with such a string of rubbish? This only shows that the South Korean authorities do not want the national great unity and peaceful reunification of the country and that it still seeks confrontation and division.

It is uncertain whether Hwang In-song's remarks are of his own making or are based on others' direction. Such antinational outbursts, however, cannot be repeated in South Korea.

The entire nation is urging the South Korean authorities to respond to whether they go forward on a road to reunification through reconciliation and the great unity with the North or to whether they will go along a road of confrontation and division against their fellow countrymen in collaboration with foreign forces. The South Korean authorities should answer the question posed by the nation.

Along with this, if it really tries to conduct civilian politics and reform, prior to making insidious remarks against others, the South Korean regime should not hesitate to abolish the former regimes' fascist and splittist remnants, including the National Security Law.

[Dated] 5 May 1993, Pyongyang

SKNDF Welcomes Inauguration of Hanchongnyon in South

SK0405105493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 4 (KCNA)—The reorganization of the "National Council of Student Representatives" into the "South Korean Federation of General Student Councils" (Hanchongnyon) with a more powerful leadership and mass foundation in South Korea is a fruition of the righteous struggle to develop the student movement to a new, higher stage and accelerate the victory of the movement for a change, said the director of the Youth and Student Department of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF], according to Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation [VNS].

In a statement dated April 30, he said the people of all walks of life desirous of independence, democracy and reunification were pinning a great hope on Hanchongnyon.

"The situation today makes it incumbent on Hanchongnyon to strengthen the organization and valiantly take the lead in the mass struggle, holding higher the banner of independence, democracy and reunification," he added.

KCNA Notes Discovery of Missing Students' Bodies

SK0605055193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 6 May 93

["Two Activist Students Found Dead in S. Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—Two activist students, one man and one woman, who had been reported missing were found dead on the sea some 20 days later, a Seoul-based radio report said.

They are Yun To-in, head of the Propaganda Department of the Kyongnam University General Student Council, and Hwang Hye-kyong, chairperson of the General Women Student Council of the same university.

Their whereabouts became unknown on April 11 after they attended a meeting of leading members of the General Student Council at the university.

Their bodies were found afloat on the sea off Wolyongtong block No. 2 in Hampo District, Masan City, on May 3.

This reminds people of the tragic incident of Kim Chu-yol, a schoolboy whom the puppet police cold-bloodedly murdered and threw into the sea off Masan in April 1960 in an effort to put down the massive struggle of the South Korean people against the fascist dictatorship and pillage of the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee puppet regime and for new politics, a new life, democracy and national reunification.

Trade Union Group Meets Fidel Castro in Cuba

SK0605085793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 3 May 93

[Text] Fidel Castro, president of the Council of State and of the Council of Ministers, and first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, on 1 May received our country's delegation of the General Federation of Trade Union of Korea [GFTUK] led by Vice Chairman Yi Chin-su. The delegation visited Cuba to attend the May Day ceremony.

Comrade Fidel Castro expressed thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il for sending a delegation to the May Day ceremony in Cuba. He also expressed support for our people's struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

Envoy to Malaysia Pays Farewell Call on Premier

SK0605083793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Ambassador to Malaysia Yu Chae-hwan paid a farewell visit to Malaysian Prime Minister Bin Mohamed Mahathir on 30 April.

The prime minister said: It is Malaysian Government policy to promote friendly and cooperative relations with all other countries, including Korea. It is also important to expand and develop friendly and cooperative relations with other countries, including economic trade relations with Korea.

UNDP Official Pays Farewell Call on Vice Premier

SK0405114193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1053 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 4 (KCNA)—Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam met and conversed with Henning Karcher, resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] in Korea, who paid a farewell call on him today.

Exhibition Displays Achievements of Electronics Industry

SK0505152193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1509 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 5 (KCNA)—The Three Revolution Exhibition opened on April 9 has a 50 metre high hall of peculiar architectural beauty symbolising the saturn. [as received] It is the electronic industry hall.

Its floor space is 10,000 square metres.

On display there are achievements in the electronic automation industry, post and telecommunications, space research and materials showing the prospects of their development.

The visitors can see an aspect of the electronic industry which has made a rapid development in Korea in recent years through modern products, equipment and parts such as microcomputer, compiler of Korean language and memory drive and visual aids showing the computerized management of industrial establishments and piezo electromagnetnc material, superconductive material, sound surface wave element, etc.

Achievements in the development of the automation industry are shown on the large board displaying automation in thermal power, the 500 ampere rectifier, chips and resistors of different sizes and batteries.

Put on display are achievements in post and telecommunications such as optical fibre cable, multi-function electroautomatic telephone exchanger and various kinds of robots including intelligent and quick-moving robots devised and manufactured by scientists, technicians and the three-revolution team members.

What attracts the eyes of visitors is the operation of the intelligent robot which discerns the shapes and positions of parts by image signals through two cameras and does assembling, welding, grinding, pressing and material carrying.

On show in the globe-shape third floor are video-taped materials and large pictures about the sun and its planets, about satellite delivery means and typical satellites and about the prospect of space conquest.

Kim Il-song Gives Guidance to Pyongyang Fruit Farm

SK0505045693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 5 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song Tuesday gave on-the-spot guidance to the Pyongyang fruit farm.

He was accompanied by Kang Song-san, premier of the Administration Council; Kang Hui-won, vice-premier of the Administration Council and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee; So Kwan-hui, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK]; Kang Hyon-su, chief secretary of the Pyongyang municipal committee of the WPK and chairman of the Pyongyang municipal people's committee; Kim Won-chin, chairman of the state agricultural commission; Yi Sin-cha, chairperson of the Pyongyang municipal rural economic committee; and other officials concerned.

He mounted Kuil hill in Nunkum-tong, Yokpo District, Pyongyang municipality, and, commanding a bird's-eye view of the young orchards stretching one hundred Yi which were covered with all kinds of fruit flowers, acquainted himself down to details with the production of fruits at the farm and the supply of fruits to the citizens of the capital in recent years and set forth tasks to increase fruit production.

Noting that in order to increase fruit output, it is important to supply sufficient water to fruit trees like to grain crops, he said some equipment needed by the fruit farm should be provided quickly so that the already completed irrigation system could pay off.

He said thorough measures should be taken to protect fruit trees from blight and harmful insects and chemical fertilizers and organic mineral fertilizers be fully applied to the fruit trees.

He said that the composition of fruit trees and the distribution of their species should be done properly and the old trees be replaced by new ones in a far-sighted way for the constant increase of the output of various fruits to supply fresh fruits to the people and children of the capital in all seasons.

Rice Transplanting Begins in Countryside

SK0605105793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—Rice-transplanting began in the Korean countryside on May 5.

The agricultural working people had made thorough farming preparations from the beginning of the year and nursed sturdy rice seedlings, determined to reap a bumper harvest this year again.

They are dovetailing all the processes such as harrowing, rice-seedling plucking, transport of seedlings and rice transplanting by concentrating tractors on harrowing and raising the operation rate of rice-seedling plucking machines and rice-transplanting machines, thus going far ahead of schedule in rice transplanting.

Rice transplanting is one of the important farming processes decisive of success of yearly farming in Korea.

Daily Stresses Unity of Army, People

SK0605092293 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0019 GMT 4 May 93

[NODONG SINMUN 4 May editorial: "Let the Army and the People Be One in Body and Spirit in Upholding the Respected and Beloved Comrade Supreme Commander"]

[Text] In our country the army and the people are staunchly struggling by firmly uniting as one mind and one will around the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander. Thanks to this solid unity of the army and the people, who are helping and leading each other with the single aspiration and desire of safeguarding the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander at the risk of their lives, our socialist cause is winning victory after victory without faltering under any challenges and maneuvers for aggression by the enemies, and our revolution is firmly being defended and adhered to.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: All commanders and soldiers in the People's Army should love the people, protect the people's lives and property, and struggle by devoting everything to defending the people's interest. We should establish in society the ethos of attaching great importance to the military and actively assist the People's Army.

For the army and the people to become one in body and spirit in upholding the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander's leadership is important in strengthening our revolutionary ranks' might and in smashing the enemies' vicious chaallenge and maneuvers for aggression.

The respected and beloved Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il is the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and the revolutionary armed force. To advance and comsummate the revolution, it is imperative for the army and the people to firmly unite as one mind and to display highly the laudable virtue of unity between the army and the people in upholding the leadership of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander. The army and the people today are firmly united as one in upholding the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander's leadership. This unity is being more firmly consolidated as the revolution advances. We should strengthen this great unity. Thus, we should keep up the might of our revolutionary ranks as an invincible whole and achieve a greater victory in the revolution and construction.

All of the people and all officers and men in the People's Army should deeply master the greatness of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander and the wisdom of his leadership and uphold his leadership with loyalty. Because we have the greatness of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander and his wise leadership, we have our People's Army's invincible might, our people's happiness, and the socialist cause of our own style which is winning victory after victory.

The respected and beloved Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il is the great leader [yongdoja] who always leads our people and the revolutionary armed force to victory and glory. Apart from the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership, today's glory and invincible might of our people and our people's Army and the victorious advance and the consummation of the socialist cause cannot be contemplated.

All of the people and all officers and men of the People's Army should uphold the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander's leadership with loyalty and more firmly cherish the faith of being endlessly loyal to the party's cause. All of the people and all officers and men of the People's Army should accelerate the revolution and construction with firm faith in victory and actively work for our party's cause with the firm faith that they can easily defeat any powerful imperialist aggressors when pouncing upon them because they uphold at the head the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander who has iron will and matchless courage.

Functionaries and the working people should treasure and love the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander's soldiers as their blood brothers and help them with sincerity. The People's Army is the genuine revolutionary armed force which is organized with the people's sons and daughters to uphold the leader's [yongdoja] cause and to safeguard the security, lives, and property of the country and people. Therefore, the people's sacred duty is to treasure and love the People's Army as blood brothers and actively assist them.

All party members and working people should keep in mind that because our People's Army's soldiers have firmly defended the fatherland, our party and revolutionary cause have been safeguarded and our people have enjoyed happy and worthwhile lives. All party members and working people should treasure, love, and help soldiers as their own flesh and blood.

The party organizations and functionaries at every level should regard the work to help the People's Army as valuable work in upholding the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander and defending the revolution. They should always pay deep attention to helping the People's Army.

All party organizations and functionaries should realize that the work to help the People's Army is the same as the work for themselves. They should think of it as the party's work and as an important political task and perform it sincerely.

The People's Army's soldiers should be single-heartedly united with the people in order to uphold the cause of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander. The blood ties between the revolutionary army and the people are an important yardstick in regulating the army's political and ideological might and superiority.

Only when the army is single-heartedly united with the people and enjoy their support can it gain victories. Only then can the army discharge its mission and duty as the comrade supreme commander's army.

The revolutionary duties and outposts of our People's Army's soldiers and people are different. However, the People's Army soldiers are revolutionary fighters who fight to implement the comrade supreme commander's cause. They are also revolutionary comrades who share life and death and weals and woes.

The People's Army's soldiers should treasure and love the people as their real brothers and sisters, do more good for the people, and firmly defend the people's happy life.

Keeping in mind the slogan that "the guerrillas cannot live without the people just as fish cannot live without water," all People's Army's soldiers should learn from the noble example of the anti-Japanese guerrillas who gained victories by achieving single-hearted unity with the people. They should help the people and more firmly establish blood ties with them.

In particular, the People's Army's soldiers should have the firm obligation to construct socialism and defend the fatherland. They should bring about a greater innovation and upsurge in militant political training and socialist construction.

The People's Army's soldiers should kindle the flames of masses-oriented heroism and collective innovation. They should constantly perform miracles and make innovations in socialist construction sites, including the major construction program and the construction of 30,000 dwellings in capital. By so doing, they will ensure a happier life for the people.

To bring into full play the traditional laudable custom of army-people unity throughout the country, the party's organizations should enhance their roles.

The party's organizations should get the functionaries, working people, and People's Army's soldiers to understand the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's ideology of single-hearted unity between the army and the people. The party's organizations should lead the functionaries, working people, and the People's Army's soldiers to live and work anytime and anywhere according to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's ideology of army-people unity.

Along with this, the party's organizations should introduce, propagandize, and generalize the laudable custom which has come into full bloom on the road of upholding comrade supreme commander's leadership. They should more firmly establish the blood ties between the army and the people.

KCNA Reviews 6 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK0605063793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 6 May 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA)—Papers here today report that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from foreign party leaders, congratulatory message and message of greetings from compatriots in Canada and Russia, that meetings were held in different countries and Indian figures highly praised him on his election as chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

NODONG SINMUN prints a letter to Comrade Kim Chong-il from the participants in a Portuguese national seminar on the chuche idea of the present times and building of an independent new society and solidarity messages to him from foreign party leaders supporting the just cause of the Korean people.

The paper informs the readers that the Burundi-Korea Friendship Association published an article in its bulletin explaining the classical work of Comrade Kim Chong-il "Abuses of Socialism Are Intolerable".

Given in the paper are accounts of a symposium of politicians, scholars and pressmen on the "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country" and an Osaka prefectural meeting of Korean residents in Japan held to support the programme.

Dailies report that agricultural working people across the country have turned out in rice transplanting and an innovation has been effected in the production of fertilizer.

Printed in the press are a statement issued by a spokesman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland and a letter sent by the acting chairman of the C.C.[Central Committee], DPRK Red Cross Society to his South Korean counterpart. The statement denounces the remarks of the South Korean "Prime Minister" that they would maintain the "National Security Law", a fascist law. The letter was sent in connection with the discovery in South Korea of new materials related to pow of the Korean People's Army in the Korean war.

NODONG SINMUN carries a resolution of the Latin American regional seminar of the chuche idea on building an independent, new society and news that a resolution demanding the demolition of the concrete wall dividing Korea was adopted at the seminar.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged a joint air war exercise simulating northward invasion, says the paper.

The daily informs the readers that Cho Hong-nae, a South Korean who defected to the northern half of Korea last year, was interviewed by reporters.

South Korean news columns of the press include reports that more than 600 students of Kyongwon University staged a protest against unjust acts in entrance examination and employment of teachers and bodies of two activist students of a student council reported missing were found afloat on the sea some 20 days later.

NODONG SINMUN in an article titled "Banner of National Unity Acceptable to Anyone" explains the seventh point of the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation.

The paper conveys world public voices condemning the clamor of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for "special inspection."

In a commentary the paper says a recent issue of the WASHINGTON POST made public the fact that the United States provided the IAEA Secretariat with spy satellite "photographs proving nuclear development by North Korea", fully revealing that the United States instigated the IAEA to adopt the "resolution on a special inspection" of the DPRK.

The paper publishes news that May Day was celebrated in Russia and other countries.

Given in the daily is an account of a Korea-Japan friendship and solidarity meeting held in Pyongyang.

The paper carries an article about the DPRK's consistent stand of anti-nuke and peace.

South Korea

Reportage on DPRK's Withdrawal From Nuclear Treaty

IAEA Said To Check Only Monitoring Gear

SK0505132793 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1215 GMT 5 May 93

[Report by correspondent Cha Man-sun from Vienna]

[Text] The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] is planning to send a three-member team to North Korea on 8 May in order to resume the ad hoc inspection [imsi sachal] which has been suspended since last February due to North Korea's refusal to grant visas to the inspection team.

It was learned that during the negotiations with North Korea, the IAEA proposed sending a five-member inspection team according to past practices. However, the North Korean side, unlike in the past, strongly demanded the reduction of the size of the inspection team. Because of this, the two sides reportedly reached a stumbling block in negotiations.

The current inspection team will not be able to conduct free inspection activities after going to Yongbyon, North Korea, but merely will engage in replacing the electric power source and film installed in the existing monitoring equipment. Thus, the forthcoming inspection can hardly be termed as a normal inspection.

The issue of inspecting the replacement of plutonium fuel rods in the 5-megawatt experimental atomic reactor in Yongbyon is the pending problem between the IAEA and North Korea at present. However, the two sides did not discuss this pending issue during the recent negotiations.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources in Vienna observed that North Korea's current issuance of visas to the inspection team is a diplomatic strategy designed for proppaganda purposes in the face of the adoption of a resolution by the UN Security Council.

U.S., DPRK Hold Talks in Beijing

SK0605003293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0016 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Washington, May 5 (YONHAP)—The United States and North Korea held counselor-level talks in Beijing on Wednesday to discuss the North Korean nuclear issue, the U.S. State Department said.

It was not immediately known what was discussed at the 32nd Washington-Pyongyang contact, held at the request of North Korea, but they were understood to have discussed problems related to a proposed high-level meeting between the two countries.

At his weekly briefing to reporters Wednesday, State Department Spokesman Joe Snyder confirmed the U.S.-North Korean contact in Beijing but declined to disclose details as they were diplomatic negotiations.

Informed diplomatic sources said, however, North Korea was believed to have asked the United States to hold a vice-ministerial conference at an early date. But the United States seems to have told North Korea that there had to be a practical progress on the North Korean nuclear issue before the two sides could convene such a meeting, they added.

The United States must have again urged North Korea to accept outside inspections of its nuclear facilities, they said.

"The United States is willing to meet with North Korea to help resolve the current situation resulting from actions North Korea has taken in the nuclear area," he said.

Snyder said he had nothing further to add.

Asked whether the United States was going to issue a visa to a high North Korean government official who was rumored to visit the state department within this week, Snyder said he knew nothing about a visit.

"I have not heard of any senior North Korean official visiting the State Department this week or next week," he said.

The United States and North Korea had a similar contact in Beijing on March 17 and March 19.

Many analysts say they expect the two countries to hold a high-level conference in the near future.

'Expected To Hold' High-Level Talks

SK0605023293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0144 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Washington, May 5 (YONHAP)—The United States and North Korea are expected to hold a high-level meeting in mid-May to negotiate the withdrawal by North Korea of its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

The two countries were reported to have agreed in principle on the need for such a meeting at their counselor-level contact in Beijing on Wedesday.

At the 32nd U.S.-North Korean contact, held at the request of Pyongyang, North Korea was understood to have sent "a certain positive signal" to the United States. It was not immediately clear what the nature of the signal was.

However, the United States had insisted that it would not agree to a high-level meeting unless North Korea reversed its decision to leave the NPT and allow inspections of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The United States is pushing what many observers say is a "mild" resolution on the North Korea nuclear issue to be adopted by the United States Security Council around Friday.

The United States is expected to consult with South Korea after the adoption of the resolution and before holding the "vice minister-level" meeting in mid-May.

There is a possibility that the proposed high-level meeting will be in New York, sources said.

State Department Spokesman Joe Snyder said: "The United States is willing to meet with North Korea to help resolve the current situation resulting from actions North Korea has taken in the nuclear area."

Snyder's remark was seen by many as a step forward from the past U.S. position that the United States "would not rule out a possibility of a conference with North Korea if it could help resolve the nuclear problem."

But Wednesday's contact in Beijing did not discuss details of the proposed conference, including the date, according to sources. It is likely, therefore, for the two sides to hold another contact soon at the request of the United States, they said.

One diplomatic source, requesting anonymity, said it was unclear to what extent North Korea had sent a "positive" signal but the two sides had obviously agreed on the need for high-level talks.

There is also a possibility that the proposed high-level meeting could turn out to be an occasion for the United States to serve notice of economic sanctions against North Korea if Pyongyang fails to live up to the U.S. suggestions for the resolution of the nuclear question, the source said.

UNSC Vote Expected 'Late This Week'

SK0605033893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0314 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] United Nations, May 6 (YONHAP)—The U.N. Security Council is expected to vote on a resolution on North Korea's nuclear problem late this week or early next week, though China is calling for a milder approach.

A highly placed source at the South Korean Mission said on Wednesday that last-minute negotiations were under way among permanent members of the council over China's demand that the resolution, drafted by the United States, Britain, France and Russia, be replaced by a council chairman's statement.

In view of international opinion on North Korea's defiance of international nuclear safeguards, China would hardly oppose the council taking a vote on the resolution and South Korea and the United States, with support of Britain, France and Russia, were pushing ahead with their plan to get the council to vote on the resolution instead of issuing a statement in the chairman's name, even though China abstains away from the vote, he said.

A chairman's statement has no binding force on North Korea, but a resolution would pave the way for the United Nations to take sanctions against North Korea if it defied the resolution until its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) takes effect on June 12.

The resolution calls on Pyongyang to retract its NPT pullout decision, abide by its nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and resolve its nuclear issue through dialogue with the IAEA. It also warns Pyongyang that it faces additonal action if it violates the resolution.

Should China, known to be drafting a statement to be issued in the name of the council chairman, agree to vote on the resolution, giving up its statement plan, the United States and other drafters of the resolution would tone down its content in a bid to soften North Korea's reaction.

The North Korean nuclear issue is expected to reach a watershed when the United States and North Korea hold a high-level meeting after the U.N. Security Council's adoption of the North Korean resolution.

A U.N. diplomatic source said the high-level U.S.-North Korea meeting would take place immediately after the Security Council votes on the resolution because Washington wanted such a sequence of events.

In the meeting, to be reportedly between Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Peter Tarnoff for the United States and First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu for North Korea, Washington is expected to press Pyongyang to abide by the U.N. resolution, while Pyongyang will focus on improvement of relations with the United States.

Ho Chong, no. 2 at the North Korean Mission to the United Nations, said by telephone his country would not allow special IAEA inspections of its nuclear sites under any circumstances.

But he added that an IAEA inspection team would arrive in Pyongyang on Saturday for normal checkups of nuclear facilities and a special North Korean team would visit Vienna for talks with the IAEA.

He welcomed the U.S. proposed high-level meeting, saying a wide range of issues, including the nuclear issue, would be discussed at the meeting.

Unification Minister Views 'Appeasement'

SK0605081093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0709 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—South Korea may consider gradual appeasement toward North Korea if it cancels its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] by June 12, Unification Minister Han Wan-sang said Thursday.

"I think that North Korea's cancellation itself will greatly ease the tensions on the Korean peninsula," he said.

"Our position that North Korea should accept both the special inspection of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and inter-Korean mutual inspection has not changed at all.

"If the inspection problem is solved and North Korea's nuclear transparency is ensured, relations between Seoul and Pyongyang will get momentum to develop considerably," Han said.

This implies that the government might partially allow visits to North Korea by businessmen and small-scale economic cooperation, banned across the board in October 1992 when a spy ring was cracked, thus softening its position that it forbids any type of economic cooperation and business trips unless IAEA and inter-Korean mutual nuclear inspections, let alone Pyongyang's return to the NPT, are fully accepted by North Korea.

The National Unification Board was giving consideration to allowing direct trade, CMT (cutting, making and trimming) deals and economic cooperation in accordance with North Korea's attitude, sources said.

SRV's Premier, Foreign Minister To Visit 13-16 May

SK0605004293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0019 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet will visit Seoul on May 13-16, the Foreign Ministry announced Thursday.

Kiet will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and financial officials for a visit that is likely to focus on bilateral economic ties.

The prime minister will meet with President Kim Yongsam and discuss issues of mutual interest. He is scheduled to tour major industrial sites and meet key economic leaders.

Seoul, which backed South Vietnam in the Vietnam war, severed relations with the Indochinese country in 1975 at the time of its communization. The two countries restored full relations Dec. 22 last year.

Kiet will sign trade, air services, and investment promotion and protection agreements as well as a convention on the avoidance of double taxation.

Two-way trade nearly doubled to 470 million U.S. dollars last year from 240 million dollars in 1991. Korea emerged as Vietnam's sixth largest investor during the first quarter this year with 340 million dollars permitted by the Seoul government.

SRV Group Arrives for Talks on Training Center

SK0605082393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0545 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—A Vietnamese delegation arrived in Seoul on Thursday [6 May] for detailed talks on opening a vocational training center for Korean-Vietnamese.

Before the two vice minister-level officials and other delegates depart May 11, they will visit vocational training centers and an industrial complex.

The delegation is accompanied by 24 instructors who are to be trained at three vocational training centers in Korea.

Seoul, Washington Officials To Discuss PEI Extension

SK0605080593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0515 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States will meet May 11 in Seoul to discuss extending their Presidents' Economic Initiative (PEI) beyond its expiration this September, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

Sandra Kristoff, national security adviser for economic affairs, will be here to talk about reshaping the PEI format, which is currently divided into customs, standardization, investment and technology sectors.

Seoul officials say they hope to strengthen the investment and technology sections, perhaps developing them into independent issues from PEI to lift the two most troubled areas in bilateral trade.

Presidents No Tae-u and George Bush agreed to launch the PEI in January last year, and Seoul and Washington agreed in principle during Foreign Minister Han Sungchu's U.S. visit in late March to extend the PEI.

Results of the PEI meetings will be reported at the Korea-U.S. economic consultation session scheduled in Seoul around June 24.

Business, Political Leaders To Meet U.S. Counterparts

SK0605082293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0526 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—Former and current Korean and U.S. political and business leaders will meet in Seoul on Sunday for a two-day "friendly and informal" discussion over issues of mutual interest.

Members of Korea-U.S. wisemen meeting are expected to touch on Korea's new economic and trade policies and the current hot potato of North Korea's nuclear program, a spokeswoman for the conference host, the Korean Institute of American Affairs [KIAA], said Thursday.

Rep. Kum Chin-ho of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, Choe Chong-hyon, chairman of the Federation of Korean Industries, Cho Sun, a former governor of the Central Bank of Korea, and Ku Pyong-hoe, chairman of Lucky-Goldstar International Corp., will represent Korea at the fourth talks.

Their American counterparts are former Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, former Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Zbigniew Brzezinski, Rep. Dave Mccurdy, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, David Rodrick, a former chairman of USX-U.S. Steel Group, A.W. (Tom) Clausen, chairman of Bank of America, and Amos Jordan, vice chairman of the Center for Strategy and International Studies (CSIS).

KIAA President To Yong-sim acts as secretary-general for both sides.

KIAA refused to disclose details of the agenda, saying it was informal, but looking at the list of the participants, the Korean and U.S. leaders are expected to discuss bilateral economic and security issues.

Although the wisemen talks are non-governmental, their results are reported to the presidents of the two countries.

The Korea-U.S. Wisemen Council was initiated jointly by CSIS and the Korean International Trade and Business Institute in November 1991 for high-level private talks on political, economic, and security matters.

The talks are based on no protocol, no record, and no press.

Seoul, Tokyo To Hold Talks on Trade Balance 17-18 May

SK0605040293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0053 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Japan will hold their third talks on redressing their heavy trade imbalance next week in Tokyo, with Seoul urging long-term technical training programs and joint research on industrial technology, Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday.

The meeting, slated for May 17-18, will pick up on general issues such as the Uruguay Round, growing number of regional economic blocs and overall global trends, the officials said.

Seoul officials hope to convince Tokyo to lower its tariff and non-tariff barriers toward Korean products, and get the Japanese Government specifically involved in technology transfer.

Next week's meeting is the third of the South Korea-Japan Industrial Technology Cooperation Committee, installed in July last year after the two country's leaders agreed on an "action plan" as a way of rectifying the growing trade imbalance in Japan's favor.

Seoul's deficit with Tokyo grew from 5.9 billion U.S. dollars in 1990 to 8.7 billion dollars in 1991 and 7.8 billion dollars last year. Korea's aggregate deficit with Japan since their diplomatic normalization in 1965 totals 74.2 billion dollars.

Korea will explain President Kim Yong-sam's five-year new economic plan and efforts to upgrade export competitiveness, the officials said.

Son Chun-yong, assistant minister for economic affairs, and his Japanese counterpart, Koichiro Matsuura, will lead the talks.

Mongolia To Sign Pact on Avoiding Double Taxation

SK0605040493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0059 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Mongolia exchange a ratified convention on avoidance of double taxation Friday and put it into full effect June 6, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

The agreement on preventing double taxation and fiscal evasion, initialed in April last year, defines subjects and rates of corporate taxation.

It takes force one month after Sin Hyo-hun, director-general of treaties, exchanges the ratified document with Mongolian Ambassador to Seoul Perenlein Urjinlhundev, officials said.

CITES Warns Seoul on Endangered Species Trade

SK0605101993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0942 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—Wildlife inspectors warned South Korea about its regular import of tiger bones, saying it would be in violation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Seoul hopes to join in coming months, Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday.

Inspectors from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) met with Foreign, Health and Social Affairs, and other related ministries and raised the problem, the officials said.

South Korea buys about 450 kg of tiger bones a year from Taiwan, some 2 billion U.S. dollars worth, for medicinal use. The CITES standing committee last March named South Korea as one of underground trade nation of endangered species and urged 118 member nations to impose trade sanctions.

The convention restricts trade of more than 200 species, and South Korea hopes to join cites before September at the latest.

The WWF team is expected to stay for three weeks for on-site inspection of marketplaces.

Meanwhile, CITES Secretary-general Izgrev Topkov is in Seoul to discuss South Korea's membership in the convention.

Ministry: East Sea Not Polluted by Radioactivity

SK0605080893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0644 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—The East Sea is not contaminated with radioactivity despite dumping of nuclear waste in the area by the Soviet Union since 1959, the Science and Technology Ministry said Thursday.

Water and the sea-bed near Ullung Island, fish from the East Sea and Okhotsk Sea, water between Kangnung and Ullung, and the sea-bed between Kojin and Pohang showed no signs of radioactive elements or triple hydrogen, just infinitesimal amounts of cesium and potassium, ministry officials said.

The concentration of cesium-137 was below Japan's annual average, and the amount of potassium-40, a naturally occuring form of radioactivity, was microscopic.

The cesium-137 was probably fallout from nuclear testing by the United States and Soviet Union in the 1960s, the officials said.

The measurements were based on the annual averages of Japanese environment analysis between 1974 and 1989 because Korea still lacks measuring datum on radioactive pollution.

But because the dumping method, volume and type of nuclear waste was unknown and because the Russian Navy is expected to continue disposing of liquid nuclear waste in the sea, many analysts have called for quick government countermeasures.

The ministry will soon initiate joint research with Japan and Russia while setting up a network for checking radioactive marine pollution, the officials said.

Police Raid Hyundai Auto Parts Supplier To End Strike

SK0605044193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0203 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Kyongju, North Kyongsang Province, May 6 (YONHAP)—Some 200 policemen raided Apollo Industrial Co., a supplier for Hyundai Motor Co., early Thursday to stop a strike and arrested three people.

After the police raid, the company announced it was suspending business and some 100 union members staged a rally in front of the factory gate to protest the use of public power.

The police had warrants for union leader Kim To-hyong, So Chong-hui and Choe Chi-son.

Labor and management began talks Feb. 24 on a 110-item agenda, including union participation in appointments and management, but had got nowhere.

The union started a job action April 29 and Hyundai had to suspend production of its Elantra cars because Apollo stopped supplying bumpers, headlamps, and crash pads.

Prosecution Examines Political Links of 'Korean Mafia'

SK0605043993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0320 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—A high-ranking law-enforcement official said Thursday that the government planned to conduct a thorough investigation of anyone implicated in the case of the "godfather" of what a prosecutor has characterized as a budding Korean Mafia.

The official said that in the course of a probe into Chong Tok-chin, so-called godfather of slot machines, investigators had found that "a kind of sanctuary had been formed in the world of gangsters closely connected to part of authorities in the past administrations."

The government would follow its thorough and complete investigation to wherever it led, the official said.

"No one will be immune to our investigation, regardless of their position," said the official, who asked his name be withheld.

The official said, however, there had not been any "outside pressure" so far in the investigation of Chong.

"If someone tries to press the investigators on his behalf, he would also become the target of investigation," he added.

Chong, 53, is under arrest on suspicion of tax evasion, among other things.

Meanwhile, informed sources said that Chong had told his investigators that he had been asked by a former Chongwadae official, now a representative at the National Assembly identified only as "K," to send 100,000 U.S. dollars to the United States for his son, who was studying in America at the time.

Chong also told prosecutors that a former high-ranking official of the Agency for National Security Planning, identified only as "O," had exerted "pressure" on the National Tax Administration when Chong came under the administration's tax probe, the sources said.

The prosecution plans to summon both men—K and O—for questioning, the sources said.

Politicians Worry About 'Second Wave of Purges'

SK0605092993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0846 GMT 6 May 93

[By Cho Se-hyon]

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—As some politicians were heaving sighs of relief, believing they had just ridden out the first wave of the anti-corruption drive, the second wave of purges began with the arrests of a banker and the "godfather" of slot machines.

Politicians, especially those in the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], were nervously watching where the sparks would fly as the prosecution was actively probing An Yong-mo, president of Tong Hwa Bank, and Chong Tok-chin, the boss of a gang characterized by a prosecutor as "a budding Korean mafia."

At the initial stage of questioning, some prominent names were already being mentioned as possible recipients of what is commonly called "black money."

Sources say they include some of the nation's leading lawmakers, who were "the real power" during the administrations of presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u.

Law enforcement authorities were also reported to be discreetly checking up on legislators in the opposition camp.

The investigation of An and Chong has divided the ruling Democratic Liberal Party into two groups.

Those in the first group hold their breath, looking nervously over their shoulders for the outcome of the probe. Some of them ask anxiously: "When is this purge of corrupt officials going to end?"

Those in the second group applaud and spur on the administration of President Kim Yong-sam in its reform drive.

"In order to carry out the reforms successfully, the Kim administration has to be firm in its investigation of the irregularities committed by officials of former governments," they say.

The nervous members of the first group belong to the DLP's so-called Democratic Justice Party faction. These are the followers of Presidents Chon and No who enjoyed power and influence in the successive administrations of the former army generals.

They know only too well how financial institutions worked in collusion with the political circle for the perpetuation of power by passing "black money," as An allegedly did with his bank's slush fund.

Most of them also know how rapidly "godfather Chong" grew up with protection from the Chon and No administrations.

"Hardly anyone in this group did not know Chong," one member of the Democratic Justice Party faction says. "Nor was there anyone who did not receive kickbacks from banks.

"If President Kim really means to dig up all the dirt of the previous administrations, quite a few politicians will get hurt," he predicts.

Many politicians believe that the investigation into banker An and godfather Chong is actually aimed at purging those who wielded power, especially under No.

The investigation is also meant by President Kim as a warning to members of No's faction to cut their ties with the previous government.

Kim's own followers in the DLP, who are called the Democratic Party faction, urge the administration to go on to the bottom of any and every scandal that comes to the attention of the law enforcement agencies.

They keep sounding a note of warning, saying that if the government mishandles the cases of the banker and the slot machine king, the entire reform drive will suffer a grave setback.

If the investigation into Chong (whom Chon and No would not, or probably could not, handle) is lukewarm, the people will not accept the outcome, they say. It will also expose the limits of Kim's reform drive, which he vowed to carry out thoroughly and completely and as long as he was in the office.

But some members of the DLP's Democratic faction are said to be concerned by the possibility that a thorough investigation of the gang boss could produce "sacrificial lambs of reform" like former Party Secretary-general Choe Hyong-u, since Chong is rumored to have extended his financial tentacles to ruling party politicians as well as those in the opposition camp.

Choe, the president's right-hand man, had to resign from the party leadership post when it was disclosed that one of his sons had entered university by the back door.

The opposition Democratic Party, meanwhile, is demanding the complete disclosure of names connected with the two men. The party insists that the flow of black money from the two men has to come under the spotlight of reform.

Despite its outwardly strong position on the issue, the party is not without its share of concern, sources say.

It believes that none of its members can possibly be implicated with An, as the banker mainly dealt with ruling party officials, but it is not so sure about the slot machine kingpin, whose money and influence were spread so widely across the entire spectrum of politics that some of its members could very well have received money from him, sources say.

Prosecutor Suspects No Tae-u Aides of Corruption

SK0405023593 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 May 93 p 3

[Text] A former foreign minister and a couple of senior aides to ex-president No Tae-u are suspected of having received billion of won in bribes from An Yong-mo, former president of Donghwa Bank. The two former presidential aides are now lawmakers of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP].

An, 67, who is under arrest for having illegally raised secret funds of the bank, was found to have offered a total of 2,270 million won (about 3.3 million U.S. dollars) to No's confidants on several occasions from 1989 to late last year, a spokesman of the Prosecutor General's Office [PGO] said yesterday.

One of the two lawmakers served as senior secretary for economic affairs while No was in office and the other is learned to have played a key role in the collection of political funds for No since the 1987 presidential election, according to informed sources.

The bank was founded in 1989 by businessmen and citizens whose hometowns are in North Korea.

Some 1,400 million won out of the 2,270 million won was given to those key associates of No during the final days of No's tenure, according to PGO. No left Chongwadae [presidential offices] on Feb. 25.

Prosecutors suspect that An gave the money to them in return for their help for the foundation of the bank and other financial favors from the government.

Prosecutors do not rule out the possibility that several other former economic ministers and ranking government officials might have taken bribes from An as he admitted that they helped the foundation of the bank.

Prosecutors are tracking the deposits of those suspected recipients and are ready to call them one by one soon. The two lawmakers who were identified only by their surnames Yi and Kim will be summoned after the ongoing extraordinary session of the National Assembly is adjourned on May 26, according to prosecutors.

An was found to have laundered the money through two Seoul banks before giving it to the recipients in order to make it difficult to track the whereabouts of the bribes.

In the meantime, one of the two DLP lawmakers is learned to have denied that he had accepted bribes from An.

Nevertheless, the envisioned expansion of prosecutors' investigation of the bribery scandal is expected to bring about serious repercussions in political circles as it might touch No himself.

An told prosecutors that he had given Rep. Yi a total of 880 million won on 10 occasions since November 1989 shortly after the foundation of the bank.

Rep. Kim received from An 100 million and 300 million won in October 1991 and in October 1992, respectively. After serving as senior presidential secretary, Kim was elected to the National Assembly in April 1992 under the proportional representation system.

The former finance minister identified only by his surname Yi received a total of 780 million won on 10 occasions from September 1989 till last December, according to the prosecutors.

The recipients of the large bribes from An may face arrest on charges of abuse of power if they turn out to have exercised influence on relevant government agencies for preferential favors for the bank.

Prosecution To Question No's Daughter Upon Return

SK0605093293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0908 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP)—The Seoul district prosecutor's office plans to question No So-yong, the daughter of former President No Tae-u, and her husband, Che Tae-won, who have just been given a one-year probation each at a U.S. court for violating the U.S.'s currency reporting requirements.

A prosecution official said on Thursday the prosecution intend to determine the source of the nearly 200,000 dollars which they allegedly divided into sums of less than 10,000 dollars for depositing at 11 different banks to dodge the reporting requirements.

"What we are concerned about in particular is the allegation reportedly made by a U.S. prosecutor that the money the couple secretly brought into the U.S. was from a secret account of a Swiss bank," the official said.

He added, however, that they understand that the prosecution allegation did not appear in a written prosecution indictment against the couple.

"As soon as they return home, we will question them and find out the exact source of the money," the official said.

Meanwhile, a senior official of law-enforcement authorities said on Thursday that the probation sentencing given by a U.S. court to the couple was literally a probation different from any stay of the execution of a verdict.

"Because the verdict itself was respited, the U.S. court sentencing would have no effect on any domestic legal steps against the couple," he said.

The official said that nevertheless the couple would be questioned once they return home because they have been indicted under the law of the land.

"The American court sentencing was to respite a verdict against their unfaithful declaring to U.S. authorities, not against their failure to declare the large amount of 200,000 dollars to the U.S. customs office," the official said.

*Article Views Power Shift in Public Prosecutor's Office

932C0120A Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 8 Apr 93 pp 70-72

[Article by correspondent Kim Yang-ki]

[Text] Since the inauguration of the new government, the words that "the era of the Public Security Department [PSD] is gone and the era of the Special Investigation Department [SID] has arrived" have been on the lips of prosecutors frequently. These words refer to the change that has been occurring in the prosecutorial offices since early this year, a change marked by the diminishing role of the PSD in charge of political cases and the increasing importance of the role of the SID as it fights against corruption and irregularities holding the sword of justice.

Although they are now forced to surrender their "position of glory" to the SID prosecutors, the PSD prosecutors were regarded as the "cream" of the prosecutor's office from the Fifth Republic on. In those days when a prosecutor was assigned to the PSD, which is in charge of political cases, other prosecutors said he was lucky to be "chosen" for that assignment. This indicates the thought prevailing among prosecutors that the PSD is a place for the chosen people.

Indeed, PSD prosecutors have created the PSD's own unique atmosphere distinct from other departments.

They have a strong sense of camaraderie. For instance, one of the PSD prosecutors belonging to the Seoul District Public Prosecutor's Office [DPPO] quits his job to open a law office and they arrange a farewell party for him. This party is attended even by senior PSD prosecutors of the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office [SPPO]. When a prosecutor leaves his office, it is customary for his colleagues in the same department to arrange a farewell party for him. But PSD prosecutors of the SPPO are the only ones who attend a farewell party for a prosecutor belonging to a prosecutor's office at a lower level. There is no such strong camaraderie among prosecutors in the PSD or the Criminal Affairs Department [CAD] or the Felony Department.

When there is a major political case that falls under the jurisdiction of the PSD, the prosecutor general sometimes hosts a party for the PSD prosecutors of the SPPO and the Seoul DPPO to discuss the case. The purpose is mainly to give encouragement, but no similar party is held for prosecutors of other departments.

A typical PSD prosecutor follows this career path: He begins by working as a plain prosecutor in the PSD in the Seoul DPPO; rises to the medium rank and becomes the security planning officer, and then shifts among the positions of chiefs of Public Security Sections 1, 2, 3, etc. of the PSD of the SPPO; becomes the PSD chief of the Seoul DPPO and then the PSD chief of the SPPO.

The typical PSD-career prosecutors among the present prosecutors include: Yi Kon-kae, chief of the Taejon High Public Prosecutor's Office [HPPO]; Chong Kyong-sik, chief of the Criminal Trial and Civil Litigation Department; Choe Hang, chief of the PSD of the SPPO. Choe Sang-yop, former minister of government legislative administration; and Chong Chi-gun, former minister of justice, followed this career path also.

Yi Kon-kae, present chief of the Taejon HPPO, was the PSD chief of the Seoul DPPO when the Seoul United States Information Service [USIS] building was seized by dissident activists in 1985. Held responsible for the disturbance that erupted during the trial of this case, he was transferred to the Seoul HPPO. But in March 1989 he was installed as PSD chief of the SPPO. While in that position, he headed the "Joint Public Security Investigation Headquarters," consisting of officers of the Central Intelligence Agency [KCIA], police, and the Army Security Command, to handle politically troublesome public security cases. He took command of the investigation into the cases involving Yim Su-kyong, Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, Assemblyman So Kyong-won, and PPD President Kim Tae-chung.

Former PSD Chiefs Choe Sang-yop and Chong Kyong-sik served as PSD chiefs of the SPPO from the middle of the Fifth Republic through the early days of the Sixth Republic. They directed the investigations of major political cases during the Fifth Republic, such as the demonstration staged in front of Koryo University by Assemblyman Pak Chan-chong and others; the controversial statement by Assemblyman Yu Song-hwan against the cardinal national policy; the violence committed by opposition assemblymen inside the National Assembly; the sit-in strike at Konguk University; and the siege of the USIS building in Seoul.

The close human ties among PSD prosecutors across all levels are manifest in personnel appointments as is the case with the personnel administration of the Seoul District Public Prosecutor's Office. Generally, a prosecutor who has served in the Seoul DPPO for two years or more is usually transferred to a local DPPO according to the principle of rotation between Seoul and local districts.

For this reason, when the periodic reshuffle time comes, the prosecutors who are candidates for transfer to local districts are on pins and needles wondering what their destinations will be. As a general tendency, they prefer to serve, if possible, in Inchon or Suwon because it is possible to commute between Seoul and either of these two outlying cities.

But in many cases, PSD prosecutors of the Seoul DPPO are transferred to the SPPO instead of being transferred to local cities. The position of research officer is the one they are assigned to when they are transferred to the SPPO. This was true with Prosecutor Yi Sang-hyon, who was in charge of the case of Assemblymen So Kyong-won's secret entry to North Korea. More recently, Prosecutors Yi Sang-hyong, Mun Song-u, Yi Kwi-nam, Hwang Kyo-an, and Kim Chong-nam are typical examples.

Transfer to the SPPO holds great attraction for public prosecutors. First, they are not sent to local cities. Another reason is that when they work for a certain period of time, they can return to the Seoul DPPO without having to work in a local prosecutor's office. For prosecutors, their experience as SPPO research officers and their work experience in the Seoul DPPO are helpful in building their career.

Of course, the expertise required in handling public security affairs is one of the reasons this kind of personnel administration pattern came to be established for PSD prosecutors. But non-PSD prosecutors say that the unusual sense of camaraderie was at work in establishing such a pattern. Many non-PSD prosecutors maintain that when the periodic personnel reshuffle time comes, the PSD of the SPPO helps PSD prosecutors at lower levels in their promotion.

That is why in their hearts non-PSD prosecutors are jealous of PSD prosecutors. SID prosecutors are particularly envious of PSD prosecutors. In a sense, the SPPO Central Investigation Department is the superior organization for SID prosecutors of local DPPO's, just as the PSD of the SPPO is for the PSD of DPPO's. But there is no such strong camaraderie between the prosecutors of the SPPO Central Investigation Department and the SID prosecutors of the DPPO's. As an illustration of this lack of camaraderie, SID prosecutors cite cases in which even SID prosecutors who distinguished themselves in the war against crime and irregularities were transferred to local DPPO's.

During the Fifth and Sixth Republics, some prosecutors carried out lobbying activities to become PSD prosecutors prior to a scheduled personnel reshuffle. A few years ago an unidentified prosecutor applied for a PSD prosecutor's job in the Seoul DPPO, but he was assigned to some other position because of the opinion of the PSD prosecutors that "he does not measure up to PSD duties."

It seems that PSD prosecutors have a strong sense of camaraderie and human bonding because of the unusual attributes of PSD duties. Unlike ordinary criminal cases, public security cases are handled in an orderly manner under the centralized direction of the PSD of the SPPO. More weight is given to team play by all the prosecutors than to individual play.

For instance, in some cases of a massive demonstration or sit-in or a labor dispute, all those involved are taken into custody, and in other cases the offenders are divided into four categories, namely, A, B, C, and D. Suspects falling in category A are taken into custody; those in category B are booked without physical detention; those in category C are referred to a summary trial; and those in category D are dismissed with a caution. In dealing with cases relating to the general election of the National Assembly or a local election, PSD prosecutors decide under the control and direction of the SPPO PSD whether the offenders should be indicted or taken into custody.

During the Fifth Republic, in many cases some authority outside the SPPO set the criteria for handling cases and sent those criteria to the SPPO. As a consequence, the practice of meticulously following the SPPO standards by DPPO prosecutors came to be established.

Conflict sometimes developed over this practice. One such incident occurred during the Pusan USIS siege in 1986. In those days the chief of Pusan DPPO was Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Assemblyman Pak Hui-tae, who had stepped down as minister of justice a short while before. In dealing with the 25 university students, including students from Seoul University, who took part in the siege, Pak Hui-tae made his decision to separate the mastermind and active participants from their accomplices and take them into custody on a selective basis.

When Song Chon-ui, then first deputy chief of the Pusan DPPO (now the Seoul DPPO chief), reported the decision to the PSD of the SPPO, it aroused a tempest in the SPPO. Ordering the Pusan DPPO to taken all of the students involved into custody, the SPPO heaped reproaches on the DPPO, saying, "Are you people in your right mind? How can you serve as PSD prosecutors with such a poor sense of public security?"

Upon being informed of this reaction from Deputy Chief Song, Pusan DPPO Chief Pak Hi-tae engaged in a heated dispute with the SPPO, criticizing it for putting a sense of public security ahead of propriety in handling each case equitably according to its gravity. Pak retorted, "What do you mean by a sense of public security? Is it a good sense of public security when you take everyone into custody without separating the mastermind from the accomplices?"

While So Chong-sin was the chief of the Pusan DPPO, there was a similar conflict of opinion. He retired from office when he was chief of the Seoul DPPO in December 1992. When several Pusan University students were arrested for staging a demonstration, the university president called on Chief Prosecutor So to ask for the release of the arrested students. The university president pleaded, "I will take responsibility and admonish them; so please give them a chance." In response to the university president's earnest appeal, the DPPO chief agreed to release them.

In those days, it required the approval of the SPPO to release anyone taken into custody for a political offense. When the PSD of the Pusan DPPO called the SPPO to obtain an approval, the SPPO "categorically rejected" the request. The reason was that the proposed release did not comply with the set standards for release.

Informed of the SPPO reply from the prosecutor concerned, DPPO chief So immediately called the SPPO to lodge a strong protest, saying, "I myself, the chief of the DPPO in the field, want to take care of the case as I see fit. Why do you object?" In the end, all the arrested students were set free.

PSD prosecutors at all levels have a strong sense of camaraderie. But they showed a different attitude over the case of the agents of the Agency for the National Security Planning [NSP] who distributed printed materials against an opposition candidate during the 14 March 1992 general election. While an investigation was carried out by the PSD of the Seoul DPPO, those PSD prosecutors who were not involved in the investigation and most of the senior prosecutors for that matter even hesitated to show any interest in the case, taking the attitude of preferring to hush up the matter. Normally, a slight delay in filing a report on a public security case that is likely to attract keen public attention would cause big trouble. But according to some prosecutors, that was not the case when the NSP agents' case was handled.

One of the major duties of the PSD prosecutors is the collection of information. Every prosecutor collects information on criminal activities. Particularly for SID prosecutors whose major duty is to dig out irregularities and punish the perpetrators, it is essential to collect information on real estate speculation, illicit currency transactions, bribery, and so forth to find causes for prosecution.

Basically, PSD prosecutors collect information on criminal activities. For instance, they look closely for offenses committed by illegal organizations or dissident forces. Nevertheless there is a domain to which PSD prosecutors attach special importance. It is political information. To cite an example, PSD prosecutors were constantly on the move trying to obtain the list of DLP candidates who would run in the national constituency for the National Assembly before the DLP announced its list of nominees. PSD prosecutors were wide awake collecting and analyzing information on the moves and strategies of the DLP factions and the outlook of the political situation, etc. during the DLP process of choosing its presidential candidate, which culminated in the nomination of Kim Yong-sam.

At times PSD prosecutors direct their attention to rumors circulating in the street about high-ranking persons in political, government, and financial circles. In collecting information, they make the best use of all their personal connections with members of intelligence organizations and important government agencies. Pieces of information obtained are reported to the chief prosecutor or the chief of the SPPO as they are collected. When there is no information worth reporting, they try hard to search for some worthwhile information, and this search makes them stressful.

The wider their range of social contact, or the more extroverted their personality, the harder senior prosecutors push their subordinates to collect such information. A certain senior prosecutor used such information in his own social intercourse, causing murmurs among his subordinates.

In terms of prosecutorial functions, the PSD and the SID make up the three major pillars of the prosecutor's office together with the Criminal Department. The standing of the Criminal Department is immune to the changing times or any change in the political wind because it deals with criminal cases that take place in daily life, such as burglary, violence, and traffic accidents.

Conversely, the PSD and the SID are directly affected by politics and the social atmosphere at a given time. When there occur more frequently political cases involving students, dissident activist groups, and opposition assemblymen, the role of the PSD increases. That is why the standing of the PSD was at its apex under the Fifth Republic, which depended on authoritative rule. Conversely, the standing of the SID diminished as a consequence of the political situation which forced the independent authority of the prosecutorial authorities to shrink.

The PSD drastically expanded and strengthened in the second half term of the Fifth Republic, during which the PSD was at its full glory. Separate from the public safety administration section, the public safety data section was newly created in the PSD of the SPPO in April 1981. In June 1986 the names of these two sections were changed to Public Security Sections 1 and 2, respectively. The PSD of the Seoul DPPO was divided into PSD 1 and PSD 2 in the April 1986 reorganization. In October 1986 Public Security Sections 3 and 4 were added to the already established Public Security Sections 1 and 2; and the office of the public security planning officer was created in the PSD of the SPPO. These units deal with politics, labor, schools, dissident activists, communist agents, crimes involving foreigners.

However, with the rising of voices demanding the elimination of corruption and the establishment of justice since the inauguration of the new government, the reputation of the SID has been rising. In Japan, before its defeat in World War II, the Public Security Division reigned over the country. But shortly after the war was over, the Public Security Division and the Special Investigation Division engaged in a struggle for leadership. Emerging victorious in this struggle, the Special Investigation Division ushered in its golden age. This history is behind the Special Investigation Division of the Tokyo District Prosecutor's Office, which has recently proved its mettle by quickly arresting Kanemaru, an influential politician, on charges of tax evasion.

It is no exaggeration to say that whether the prosecutors will be able to establish their new image depends on the SID prosecutors, the foremost sentry of justice. The rising stature of the SID will not mean much unless it leads to a radical change in the image of the prosecutors.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Libyan Minister: Libya To Relocate Refineries

BK0505134093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0943 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 5 (AFP)—Libya's foreign minister said Wednesday the country would pull out a sizeable part of its oil business and refineries from Europe and relocate them in Asia in fear of an oil embargo against Tripoli by the European Community (E.C.).

"We don't want to put all our eggs in one basket. Most of our oil business is now in Europe ... if the E.C. decides to adopt a sanction against us, we'll be hurt badly," visiting Libyan Foreign Minister 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir [title as received] told a news conference.

Al-Muntasir, who arrived here from the Philippines Monday [3 May], said he was studying Manila and Malaysia as relocation points for Libya's oil ventures, apart from Hong Kong, Singapore, and Indonesia which he visits Thursday.

The five countries are among the economic powerhouses of Asia, seen as the world's fastest growing region.

Tripoli has faced a U.N. air and arms embargo since April last year for refusing to hand over two Libyans suspected of bombing an American Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 and killing 270 people.

The sanctions come up for renewal in August and Western governments have suggested that an oil embargo be included this time to force Libya into giving up the suspects for trial in either Britain or United States.

Al-Muntasir maintained that Tripoli wanted a neutral country for the trial but admitted that an oil embargo could crush its economy as oil formed a "sizeable part" of its annual 10 billion U.S. dollars worth of exports.

"We produce 1.25 million barrels of oil a day now, mostly for Europe. If an oil embargo is imposed against us, it will be unanimously adopted by the E.C. which makes collective decisions for Europe," he said.

Calls OIC 'Paper Tiger'

BK0505134693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1220 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 5 (AFP)—Libya's foreign minister Wednesday slammed the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) for being what he said was a paper tiger which could not enforce any of the fierce resolutions it passed.

"Like most Third World countries, the OIC has come up with too many resolutions without implementation ... it has become a social organisation instead of being a protector of the Muslim brethren," 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir charged.

"OIC conferences have become mere opportunities for delegates to meet, exchange greetings, have nice dinners and show their differences," he told a news conference here.

Al-Muntasir, who arrived in Malaysia on Monday for a four-day visit, said the OIC had been unable to enforce its resolution to take military action against Serbs for their aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He said the 50-member conference had also waited for the United States to intervene in Somalia before deciding to assist the country.

Al-Muntasir said the slow action and compromising position adopted by the OIC on various issues was due to the lack of unity and bickering among members at conferences.

"This has led the West to look down on the OIC," he said.

Ministry To Enhance Information Cooperation With DPRK

BK0505122893 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Thurs.—Trade between Malaysia and North Korea may be stepped up following efforts by the Information Ministry and North Korea's Information Committee to establish closer relations.

Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today both countries had set up a committee to exchange news and television programmes as a first step towards closer ties.

Mohamed said the committee was set up at a meeting between the ministry's senior officials led by him and North Korean officials led by Information Committee Chairman Kim Tae-yong [name as published].

The committee headed by Ministry Secretary General Yahaya Yaacob has 10 members comprising five officials from the ministry and five from North Korea's Information Committee.

The meeting agreed that information would be exchanged through BERNAMA and the Korean Central News Agency while information through Asiavision would be stepped up.

There would also be an exchange of journalists, he told a press conference after the meeting at Angkasapuri [Radio Television Malaysia House].

Singapore

Navy Chief Discusses Creating 'Balanced' Force

BK0505115693 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 5 May 93 p 2

[By Felix Soh]

[Text] Singapore—The seaward defence of Singapore and the protection of the country's sea lanes will be greatly enhanced by the Navy's latest acquisitions of minehunter vessels and maritime patrol aircraft.

The new hardware will also help the Republic of Singapore Navy [RSN] achieve its goal of being a "balanced" force, that is one with all-round capability.

Chief Of Navy Colonel Kwek Siew Jin, 42, told THE STRAITS TIMES in his first interview since he assumed the RSN's highest post in December last year. "The Navy's missions of seaward defence and the protection of SIngapore's sea lanes will be greatly enhanced by the new acquisitlons."

He took over from Commodore Teo Chee Hean, who is now the Minister of State (Finance and Communications).

In a career spanning nearly 20 years with the RSN, Col. Kwek, who has a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Singapore on a scholarship from the Singapore Armed Forces, has held several key positions, including those of Fleet Commander and Chief of Staff (Navy).

Speaking in an interview to mark the 26th anniversary of the Navy today, he said that one of his main priorities is to ensure the development of a "balanced navy."

This means a force that is very high-tech in nature manned by highly trained and motivated people and with a full set of capabilities to meet air, surface and sub-surface threats.

The Navy now has the versatile multi-roles Missile Corvettes, Missile Gunboats, Fatft and support vessels like Landing Ship Tanks to counter the three threats.

The capability to achieve successfully the Navy's mission will be given a significant boost with the latest acquisition of Mine Counter-Measure Vessels (MCMV) or minehunters and Maritime Patrol Aircratt (MPA).

Said Col. Kwek "The minehunters will provide the Navy with the important capability of keeping the port area and sea passages clear of sea mines, which in times of war can be expected to be sown in our waters."

The MPAs, he added, will have much better surveillance systems as well as endurance than the present Skyvans, and will be able to support naval strike craft up to much longer ranges.

Manned by a crew of about 30, the 48-m MCMV is capable of a speed of about 15 knots and is armed with a single 40 mm anti-aircraft/anti-ship gun.

The first minehunter, built by Swedish company, KKRV is scheduled to be launched in Sweden soon and is due for delivery by the middle of next year.

The other three hulls are being shipped back at intervals to Singapore for outfitting, trials and acceptance. One hull is already at Singapore Shipbuilding and Engineering.

"We expect it to be ready to conduct trials in local waters by this time next year," said Col. Kwek. As for the MPA, the first aircraft will be operational in 1995.

The Chief of Navy also made these points in the interview:

—The Navy's biggest asset is its pool of senior officers and warrant officers who have served many years.

He said "Many of these people joined the Navy in the early years of its formation and have stuck with it through thick and thin, making it what it is today."

—A new series of modern patrol ships is being built locally to replace the four coastal patrol craft handed over to the Police Coast Guard. These will be fitted with modern navigation, communication, command and control systems and a bigger naval gun to give it better fire power.

—The retention of good specialists and young officers is a problem because of the attractive opportunities available in the private sector.

"This is one critical problem that will have to be faced squarely and solved," he said, disclosing that an RSN group is now studying all aspects of the problem.

Cambodia

PDK Spokesman Denies Attack on UNTAC Convoy

BK0605033193 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 5 May 93

["Rejection by the spokesman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea on the allegation that the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea attacked an UNTAC truck convoy in northwestern Cambodia"—read by announcer]

[Text] On 4 May, some foreign news sources said that they suspected the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] ambushed an UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] truck convoy in northwestern Cambodia. The spokesman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] categorically rejects this accusation. This is an allegation motivated by political ill will to place the blame on the PDK and the NADK.

Such an unreasonable allegation has become [words indistinct] of the bad elements. That is, as soon as any incident takes place, they immediately hurl groundless accusations against the PDK. They always do this without seeking the truth. Take for example the recent killing of a Japanese national in Kompong Thom. They immediately blamed the PDK and NADK of being the perpetrator. But later on, after investigation, they discovered that it was the soldiers of the Phnom Penh faction—the Vietnamese puppet—who shot and killed that Japanese national.

The Cambodian nation and people as well as the justice-loving, impartial international public have all seen and learned who is bad, who is good, who has destroyed the Paris agreement, and who has implemented the Paris agreement. They have pointed out clearly that the Vietnamese aggressors, the Vietnamese puppets, and the allies inside and outside UNTAC are the bad ones. The good side requires the Paris agreement and wants to implement it correctly so that Cambodia can enjoy peace, independence, territorial integrity, and national reconciliation. This good side is the Cambodian nation and people as well as the Cambodian national resistance forces, particularly the PDK faction.

All people both inside and outside the country know well that in Cambodia these days, the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets are the masters of UNTAC (?and its allies). UNTAC is not their master. This is the result of the fact that the allies inside and outside UNTAC have not implemented the Paris agreement nor have they verified the presence of the Vietnamese aggressors. They have only allowed (?tens of thousands of Vietnamese) to stay in Cambodia and have permitted the Vietnamese agents and puppets to commit criminal acts and political terrorism, killing Cambodian people at will and forcing Cambodians to vote for the Vietnamese puppets so as to legitimize them and enable the Vietnamese aggressors to further occupy Cambodia.

How can this problem be resolved? It can be resolved only by turning to implementation of the Paris agreement dated 23 October 1991. If that is impossible, it can be resolved only through the implementation of the quadripartite national reconcilation plan of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council, by forming a quadripartite provisional government to be in charge of seeking a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem.

[Dated] 5 May
[Signed] The PDK spokesman

Suspected Khmer Rouge Attack Main Railway Line

BK0605094693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 6 (AFP)—Suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas blew up Cambodia's main railway line linking Phnom Penh with northwest Cambodia and ambushed the train, U.N. officials said Thursday.

Villagers reported that up to 100 attackers were divided into two groups—one that blew up the tracks forcing the train to stop, while the other group fired rockets and automatic weapons to rob passengers, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said. "We have no indication whatsoever who was responsible for this incident," he said.

"Rockets and small arms were allegedly used and the attackers are reported to have robbed the passengers of the train," Falt said.

The report is preliminary, and not yet investigated by the United Nations.

But Phnom Penh government officials and U.N. officials privately blamed the Khmer Rouge based on two previous explosions of the railway line that once carried refugees back to Cambodia and the fact that the group was too large to have been lone bandits.

The attack happened at dusk Wednesday about 50 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of the city of Battambang, Falt said.

Some Cambodians on the train were believed to have been injured, Falt said.

The railway attack appeared to be another step to cut off northwest Cambodia from the capital.

The Phnom Penh government has predicted for several weeks that the Khmer Rouge were attempting to cut off land access to northwest Cambodia from Phnom Penh.

National Route Five—following the same route as the railway line south of the Tonle Sap Lake—is in danger of being cut off, and U.N. personnel have been ordered to have armed escorts while traveling on it.

National Route Six—snaking along the northern bank of the Tonle Sap Lake through Kompong Thom and Siem Reap—is already too dangerous to drive as Khmer Rouge guerrillas regularly cross it in isolated areas, U.N. officials have said.

At Least 13 Killed

BK0605104393 Hong Kong AFP in English 1033 GMT 6 May 93

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, May 6 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge guerrillas blew up Cambodia's main railway line linking Phnom Penh with the northwest of the country and ambushed the train, killing at least 13 people, a U.N. spokesman said Thursday. [passage omitted]

At least 13 passengers were killed and many were wounded as the gunmen, believed to be Khmer Rouge guerrillas, opened fire with B-40 rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons on the passenger cars, Falt said.

"It is believed to be the (Khmer Rouge) by our investigators," he said.

Phnom Penh government soldiers and local villagers showed up the morning after the attack to continue looting the cars, Falt said.

The Khmer Rouge have twice previously blown up the railway line that once carried refugees back to Cambodia.

The attack happened at dusk Wednesday about 50 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of the city of Battambang, Falt said.

Several guards assigned to guard the train were missing, he said. [passage omitted]

Siem Reap Citizens Fear 19 May Khmer Rouge Attack

BK0605021993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 May 93 p A2

[Text] Fears of another Khmer Rouge attack on the northwestern Cambodian provincial capital of Siem Reap have been exacerbated by widespread rumours that a major assault could be launched on May 19, the birthday of Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot.

Some rumours went as far as to say the Khmer Rouge would capture the whole town and Angkor Wat, the symbol of Cambodia and one of the world's most famous tourist spots.

Despite a statement by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) that downplayed the Khmer Rouge attack on Siem Riep, Cambodians in general are nervous and some have recalled the nightmarish reign of the radical group from 1974-78.

"More people are using roads to move out than flying in Siem Reap," said Cambodia's Samat Communications' official Chaiwat Southong, who flew out from the battered provincial seat along with 70 other passengers on Tuesday.

"We don't know for sure when the next attack will come as the Khmer Rouge forces are stationed in and around town and they can mount assaults at will," said Chaiwat.

Around 300 Khmer Rouge soldiers launched a two-pronged assault on the city, killing nine people and injuring more than 20 people during their clash with Phnom Penh troops.

Chaiwat said he had to close down his office, leaving a local employee to take care of the communications system. "I'll probably return after the election," said the assistant administrative manager. Samat is the Thai telecommunications pioneer in Cambodia operating as system linking Phnom Penh with Siem Riep and Kampong Som.

In the twelve hours after Khmer Rouge's pre-dawn raid, Samat became the sole communications access to the outside world for panicking locals and tourists, left stranded in town as all flights to and from Siem Riep were suspended temporarily that day.

The radical faction captured the airport located north of the Siem Riep briefly before penetrating the town.

"People came to us to call home telling relatives not to come there or to inform them that they were safe," he said.

The Samat office, on the left bank of the Siem Riep River and 200 metres away, saw a squad of government troops pushing back some Khmer Rouge soldiers trying to cross the bridge into town from the southeast.

"I called my friend in Phnom Penh at the time of the attack. He heard the shelling through the phone," he said, recalling Monday's fighting which erupted at 4.30 am and ended at 7.30 am.

Residents had been preparing underground bunkers and had been informed of an evacuation plan in the event of a Khmer Rouge attack.

Radio Details Khmer Rouge Attack in Siem Reap

BK0605081193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] According to a report from the front, in Siem Reap Province, beginning at 0500 on the morning of 3 May, about 400 to 450 Khmer Rouge soldiers from divisions 930 and 912 together with about 70 interior forces (?from) FUNCINPEC offices launched an onslaught into Siem Reap city in five prongs as follows:

The first prong—over 100 men strong—came from [words indistinct].

The second prong of over 150 men came from Svay Thom and headed toward Phsa Leu [words indistinct].

The third prong of over 50 men came (?from the north).

The fourth 70-man-strong prong charged into the airport and the 4th Military Region's defense line.

The fifth prong moving from (Sambo) on coordinates 75/71 charged into the electric plant and [name indistinct] school.

Among the five prongs, the first, second, and fifth prongs [words indistinct].

Exercising their right to self-defense, the provincial and 4th Military Region units repulsed them with all forces available until (?0530). They then retreated shamefully leaving behind (?15) dead bodies. We captured two enemy soldiers—a Khmer Rouge soldier and a high-ranking FUNCINPEC military officer—seized 13 weapons, and retrieved 19 (?bicycles) belonging to the people and six motorcycles.

We suffered the following losses: one soldier killed, two others wounded, four inhabitants killed, 11 inhabitants wounded; seven houses, two tractors, a (Benz) car, a handle tractor, a Toyota car burned down.

In Kompong Thom Province, at 1300 on 1 May, about 36 Khmer Rouge soldiers from division 785 launched a two-prong attack. They attacked and robbed the people at (Ronieng), Sralau commune, Baray District, taking away a motocycle; and [words indistinct] wounding three inhabitants—one seriously and two slightly.

At 2240 on 4 May, about 250 to 300 Khmer Rouge soldiers from division 616 led by (Chon and Saraom) and division 802 led by (So Saroeun) launched attacks on [words indistinct] in Kompong Thom city, on Kompong Kou in Kompong Kou commune of Kompong Svay District—the base of (?Ngo-15) provincial battalion on coordinates 04/79, UNTAC airfield on coordinates 13/92, (?Banteay Russei)—police base, [words indistinct] in Kompong Svay District.

Exercising their right to self-defense, the State of Cambodia [SOC]'s armed forces repulsed the rebels, killing nine of them on the spot, seized two AK's, a (B-44), and a K-54 pistol. Three SOC soldiers were killed, six inhabitants were (?wounded), and 20 houses were burned down.

Paper Discloses Khmer Rouge's New Weapons Stockpile

BK0605012593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 May 93 p 5

[Article by Jacques Bakaert under the rubric "Cambodian Diary" titled: "New weapons for the Khmer Rouge"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In recent weeks the Khmer Rouge have acquired a large quantity of new equipment. No one knows where it came from. It includes heavy 122mm guns, 120mm mortars, rocket launchers and plenty of new uniforms. The Chinese-made equipment is brand new, but did it come directly form Beijing? Many countries have Chinese-made military equipment. Some sources also claim that the Khmer Rouge have received tanks.

A reliable source also confirmed that the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea has regrouped some of its forces in the past few weeks. Large convoys of ammunition have also been spotted in several provinces. New commanders have arrived from the Khmer Rouge border bases to replace those considered too friendly with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces.

What are the Khmer Rouge planning to do? Disrupt the election? Probably. But the Khmer Rouge leadership must know that they can't stop the election. "They probably position themselves for after the election. They know they cannot win a military victory," said a Western ambassador. "But the heavy guns can add some weight to whatever political demand they might have."

There is a feeling of fear and anxiety in Phnom Penh. Thai and Laotian visas are selling well. Since a passport costs only a few dollars, thousands of Cambodians are getting one, just in case.

It would only take a few rockets over Phnom Penh for people to believe that it is 1975 all over again. But objective conditions are very different, of course. It does not take a pollster to find out that the vast majority of the Cambodian people have only one dream: Peace. Their major task now is to impose this dream on their politicians and leaders.

Commentary Questions UNTAC's Neutrality in Campaigns

BK0605110993 Phnom Penh CAMBODIA TIMES in English 3-9 May 93 p 2

[Commentary: "The Name Dropping Game"]

[Text] Many Cambodians believe that the majority of the candidates and parties for the polls between May 23 and May 27 are dropping names to gain votes.

One candidate claims to be the adopted son of George Bush, the former American president; another claims that his party is backed by Bill Clinton, the current US President.

"In my opinion every party is supported by a foreign country—China, USA, France, Australia, Thailand, Vietnam, North Korea, Japan and so on."

"Whichever party wins, do you allow the country to become a 'kon ok' (a pawn in a game of chess) of that country?" questions a voter interviewed by the Cambodian Human Rights Task Force monitoring the elections.

This is the tragedy of the whole campaign. Few of the parties and candidates are able to explain how they are going to solve the massive problems in the country.

Some candidates blatantly declare that the United States will do the needful. One even went to the extent of openly asking for financial support for his campaign from a neighbouring country.

Perhaps these parties want to make Cambodia a province of a foreign country, but will Cambodians allow their country to be that? They will decide later this month.

FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] on the other hand, is apparently holding on to the coat tails of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to gain support.

Some Cambodians, disgusted with years of civil war, feel comfortable with UNTAC around. One Cambodian was heard to say she will vote for UNTAC in the elections!

FUNCINPEC is cashing in on this absurd sentiment. Its officials are travelling with the United Nations in their campaigns obviously to indicate UNTAC support.

The royalist party is seen by some observers as the only one with the resources to provide a challenge to the ruling Cambodia People's Party. It is running a well organised campaign, American style. It is even launching a TV station to back its radio programmes.

Perhaps the UNTAC connection helps in the extra mile.

UNTAC's neutrality is now in question because it allows its facilities to be used by a political party in the campaign. The air can be cleared if UNTAC would use its media to make it clear that it does not support any political party in the elections. Is it difficult for UNTAC to say that all it wants is for Cambodians to go to the polls, and vote the party of their choice?

Only time will tell.

Chea Sim Speaks to Voters in Prey Veng

BK0405101193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 1 May 93

[Speech by Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party and chairman of the State of Cambodia National Assembly, at a meeting held in Peam Ro District, Prey Veng Province, on 29 April to inaugurate a new building at a local high school—recorded]

[Text] My respects to all venerable Buddhist monks; my respects to all esteemed and beloved compatriots present here; prince, excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen: I am most honored to be able to take part today in the inauguration of the new building of the high school as we simultaneously launch our electoral campaign here.

First of all, I would like to deeply thank His Excellency Sin Song and Madame for spending their personal resources to help build this school building to meet the educational needs of our people's children at this school known as the Reaksmei Samakki Peam Ro High School. Likewise, I would like to thank Mr. Thai Bunma, who represents a company of our State of Cambodia [SOC], for making a considerable contribution to the construction of this school building. Mr. Thai Bunma has made donations to the construction of several schools and hospitals. Moreover, Mr. Thai Bunma's trucks are being used today to transport our people to attend this rally. And he also joins our people at this meeting. Moreover, I would like to deeply thank other generous contributors as already listed by the provincial representative. I am not going to repeat the list again. The contributions of generous persons testify to the people's participation in the national rehabilitation and development efforts, particularly in the educational sector. It shows our people's interest in promoting the knowledge of their children through the study made especially at such school buildings.

Besides, I would like to deeply thank Prince Chakkrapong and his consort for financing the repair of the other two buildings standing in front of us. This contribution is made in response to our people's wish to see their children attend the high school here.

I also would like to deeply thank the leaders at all levels in our Prey Veng Province for making all-round national construction achievements during the past 14 years, especially for helping to change and improve the living conditions of our people throughout Prey Veng Province, as witnessed by the better life in Peam Ro District.

This development in all sectors has resulted from the wholehearted endeavors made by the leaders at all levels, and especially the participation of every citizen who has supported the political and economic programs of our Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and SOC. Thanks to that support, we have been able to make such great achievements. The development of Prey Veng Province is an active contribution to the rehabilitation and development of the national community. It reflects the all-round progress that can be seen in Cambodia today. We see here that our people bear smiling faces, dress in colorful clothes, are beautifully made up and painted [chuckle], are full of joy, and are resolutely supportive of our CPP and SOC Government.

More importantly, all venerable Buddhist monks and compatriots surely have not forgotten the bitter experiences of our people through more than two decades of war and through the genocidal Pol Pot regime. All of you surely have not forgotten that only the CPP rose up and fought to topple the genocidal Pol Pot regime and save the people from that genocidal calamity. Moreover, the CPP and SOC Government have over the past 14 years made great efforts to revive everything. In particular, they have given a second chance to our Cambodian people. And the CPP and SOC Government have also revived everything that was destroyed under the genocidal Pol Pot regime, bringing back to life the freedom of belief in such religions as Buddhism, Islam, and so on. Our people have always been Buddhists and many of us have for centuries been Muslims. These religions live forever in the hearts of our citizens. And so do many other religions. The good traditions and mores of our people, such as marriage, have also been revived.

As all of you—compatriots and venerable Cambodians—know well, under Pol Pot marriage was made not just one couple at a time, but hundreds of couples at a time. Each couple made its resolution not to love each other forever, but to produce three to six metric tons of paddy per hectare. And that was all of the wedding ceremony. Traditionally, to hold a wedding ceremony our people usually make preparations at least one year ahead. They wait until everything is ready before marrying off their sons or daughters. In some regions, the betrothal lasts until the construction of the nuptial house is completed before the wedding is held. If the house is not ready, the daughter will not be given away. In other regions, before wedding, the son must spend some time in the monkhood first. So, the traditions vary. And the ceremony lasts three days and three nights at least. See, one whole day—that is, the final day—must be spent just on packing up the mats. In other words, they call this "sending away the master of ceremonies." [laughter] Now, we have everything restored, to the smallest detail. You have the freedom to perform the ceremony as sumptuously as you wish. You can feast 100 or 200 tables of guests if you like so long as you have the money to pay the cost. And many rich families are doing just that.

This means that over the past 14 years all of you—compatrioits and venerable Cambodians—have been happy and have lived with joy full of hope for the future, for a brighter and more prosperous tomorrow. The whole country is making a rapid development patterned on the science and technology of more advanced countries the world over.

True, the all-round development over the past 14 years has resulted in our people now enjoying fairly good living conditions. They have bikes, motorcycles, and even automobiles. As Mr. Hun Sen said, although these motorcycles are second-hand ones, you can still drive them all the same. You can travel as fast on them as you can on new ones. If you can afford only used motorcycles, then buy used motorcycles. If you have enough money to buy new ones, go ahead, get the new ones out of the showrooms. The same thing applies to cars. You are free to buy used cars. And if you can afford it, you are free to buy a new Mercedes-Benz or Toyota or any other models. There are countless television, radio, and cassette recorder sets.

In his speeches after his return to the motherland, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk praised the CPP and the SOC so much that he was criticized by the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party. FUNCINPEC was indignant that His Highness [Sihanouk] kept praising the CPP. In some speeches he made 10 to 20 praises of the CPP. FUNCINPEC kept count of his highness' praises of the CPP and SOC. He said he could not help it. He had to give justice to the CPP and SOC. Although he had to be neutral in his capacity, his neutral role should not prevent him from being honest and fair. That is the truth.

He went farther in his praises. He said that in some domains the CPP and SOC had achieved over the past 14 years even more than he did in his time. He was right in that statement. That is the truth. But we have never boasted about that. His highness admitted himself that in some domains we have achieved even more than what he did in his time, before 1970. In some regions there were no junior high schools before 1970, but there are these junior high schools now. In some regions there were no high schools before, but there are these high schools now. In some regions there were no universities before, but there are these universities now. This is what we have called achieving more. In some regions there were no brick schools before, but there have been these brick schools during Mr. Heng Samrin's regime over the past 14 years. Many brick schools can now be seen in the remotest areas, such as in our Prey Veng Province.

Many newly constructed school buildings are all in brick. This has been made possible thanks to the contributions of Sin Song and Madame, Mr. and Mrs. Thai Bunma, and several other generous contributors along with the general public and all venerable Buddhist monks throughout Prey Veng Province. You have contributed so much to the construction of school buildings, hospitals, roads, and bridges. These achievements have been made possible thanks to the generosity and contributions of all venerable Buddhist monks as well. That is the first point in my speech.

Second, I am not going to deal too liberally with politics. I am confident that all venerable Buddhist monks and compatriots have already heard the statements of Hun Sen since the beginning of the electoral campaign. Hun Sen made his first statement in Vihear Suor during the inauguration of the temple in Khsach Kandal District, Kandal Province. He made his next statement in Kompong Cham Province. Another statement was made in Prey Veng Province here. Then there were the statements in Takeo, Kampot, Battambang, and Siem Reap Provinces. In all these statements, Hun Sen clearly underlined the following issues:

He stressed first the rebirth of our people. He said this rebirth pointed out the nature of the party that rose up and led the struggle movement to overthrow the genocidal Pol Pot regime. He also stressed the revival, rehabilitation, and development of the country over the past 14 years, resulting in improvement of the living conditions of our people and in growing numbers of schools to ensure the education of our children. What party has done all of that? He most clearly underlined that issue.

Second, he talked about the goals the CPP is going to attain if it wins the elections. We are talking here about if the CPP wins; we are not talking about if it loses. If it loses, the CPP will perhaps not be able to continue doing what it has aimed at doing. If the CPP wins the elections, our goal—our strategic goal—is to carry on what we have already been doing, the objectives pioneered and traced by the CPP congresses. We are going to follow the path the CPP has already blazed and will continue on this path. While carrying on this line, the CPP and SOC will strive to make further improvements in accordance with the strategic targets in order to harmonize with the present circumstances under which the nation is progressing and developing on a daily basis in conformity with a scientific and technological pattern and improving in line with the economic-financial, economic-commercial, economic- industrial, and economic-agricultural systems, striving hard so all these domains can develop rapidly to allow our country to catch up with more advanced countries, especially the neighboring countries in Southeast Asia.

That was in the clearly stated speeches of Hun Sen.

Third, Hun Sen dealt with various political parties. This is because there are 20 parties taking part in the elections, including the CPP with an angel in its logo. We have several parties represented by various logos featuring a wide range of symbols from an angel to a white eagle to the monument of independence. However, Prince Ranariddh is surely miffed to hear our party accuse his FUNCINPEC party of being symbolized by a stupa [religious monument]. [chuckles] Looking more closely we can see that it is not a stupa, but the monument of independence. In a passing glance, it really looks like a stupa. But in reality it is the monument of independence.

Thus, we have various logos, some featuring just the head of an elephant, others an entire elephant or even a white eagle. All these political parties have the same right to take part in the electoral campaign. And a number of political parties regularly attack our CPP. Hun Sen also interpreted the truth. He explained the truth about the CPP and the SOC Government, especially about our CPP having fought to topple the genocidal Pol Pot regime, having saved the lives of the people, and having enabled them to live and prosper up to the present, to enjoy better living conditions, and to excerise full democratic rights and freedoms. This is more than one can hope for.

I am going to raise a few political issues here so this stage can be seen both as one from which a school building is being inaugurated and as one that is part of the electoral campaign.

I am not going to give you any more of my biographical data. Every one of you know me very well. Have not you heard of Old Man Chea Sim? I am he. [laughs] Some of you have said you've seen me only on TV. Now you are surprised to see me in person. You've said I look like the person on TV. You cannot mistake me, though. However, on TV I sometimes look somewhat younger because the hairs seem to be darker. [laughs] But in reality not a single hair on my head is black. I am old. I have earned my moniker.

Now I will talk a little politics about the electoral campaign. We are conducting this campaign throughout Cambodia. Here, our CPP also wants to get votes from the people. In order to win the elections, we need to get your ballots cast for the CPP symbolized by the angel. This is what the CPP wants. However, it is all up to the voters. It all depends on whether you vote for the CPP or for other parties. Nonetheless, the cheers you gave me just now have filled me with warmth and confidence. I feel all of you are going to vote for the CPP. Am I correct? [laughs]

I would like to say here that Prince Ranariddh also planned to hold a meeting in Prey Veng Province today. However, he did not come. And maybe he will again blame the CPP and SOC for his failure to come here. On 26 April Prince Ranariddh also held a meeting in Kompong Cham City. That FUNCINPEC rally was scheduled to begin at 0800 but Prince Ranariddh arrived in Kompong Cham at 1130 via an UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] helicopter. He thus arrived by UNTAC helicopter. It seemed that UNTAC was partial to FUNCINPEC, for UNTAC planes are for UNTAC and should not be placed at the disposal of any political parties. Nevertheless, an UNTAC helicopter transported Prince Ranariddh to a meeting in Kompong Cham. The pretext used by Prince Ranariddh was that he could not rent a plane because the SOC had put all the pilots in jail. How ridiculous! He is good at blaming others!

So, today he postponed his meeting in Prey Veng City. I do not know the excuse. But surely he must have an excuse. First, maybe he could not rent a helicopter. Second, maybe he learned the CPP chairman is holding a rally on the same day. He therefore failed to come. This is simply my conjecture.

In his speech, Prince Ranariddh talked about the FUNCINPEC Party and continued to claim that this party belongs to His Highness. It is true that his highness founded FUNCINPEC. However, before the signing of the Paris Accord, his highness resigned from FUNCINPEC. He was out of this party before the Paris Accord, during the talks to find a political settlement for the Cambodian problem. Just before the signing of the Paris Accord, he announced his resignation from the FUNCINPEC party. There are witnesses and documents to back up this assertion. First, there is the letter written by his highness saying he had already withdrawn from the FUNCINPEC party, that he was no longer part of FUNCINPEC.

There is more proof. When I called on his highness, I was told that Prince Ranariddh also visited him two days before I arrived. The purpose of Prince Ranariddh's visit was to ask permission from his highness to use his name as the name of the party. This party would have been called the Norodom Sihanoukist Party. His highness said: Daddy cannot give it to you because I have already resigned from FUNCINPEC and have nothing more to do with this party. If I let FUNCINPEC use my name and allowed this party to be called the Norodom Sihanoukist Party, people would surely accuse me of playing tricks with FUNCINPEC again.

This was said by his highness in person at Khemarin Pavilion and this can be taken as a witness. After his highness refused to grant permission to FUNCINPEC to use his name as the official name of the FUNCINPEC party, Prince Ranariddh was very angry and repeatedly hurled abuse at the CPP and its leaders, accusing the CPP of pressuring his highness not to let FUNCINPEC use his name. The truth was entirely different. What right did we have to put pressure on his highness? Whether to give his name to FUNCINPEC was entirely up to his highness. It was because he understood that he was a neutral entity belonging to no particular political party, taking part with no political party, that he was above all as the father of national reconciliation, considering all parties as his children and having equal affection for all parties. He had the same esteem for FUNCINPEC, represented by his own son, as he had for the CPP or any other parties. He treated all parties equally. Nonetheless, Prince Ranariddh kept insulting the CPP and its leaders to the point that Prince Norodom Sihanouk wondered in these terms: FUNCINPEC has not stopped insulting the CPP but the CPP and its leaders have never uttered a harsh word in return.

His highness praised the self-restraint of the CPP. We displayed self-restraint at that time because we wanted the implementation of the national reconciliation policy to be a success. We did not want to see any more splits and any more hostilities between us. We sincerely wanted national reconciliation. However, to this point in the electoral campaign, like other CPP leaders I think I cannot take it any longer. I think I have to respond, fight back, and speak the truth. I have to make it clear that Prince Ranariddh's claims that FUNCINPEC is the party of his highness and voting for FUNCINPEC is voting for his highness are completely false. They are false because his highness has already pulled out of FUNCINPEC.

I raise this issue to inform you—venerable Buddhist monks and compatriots—of the misleading propaganda campaign being conducted by FUNCINPEC, which is smearing the name of his highness by mixing it with its party and using his highness' name as a publicity stunt for its party to win the sympathy and the votes of the compatriots. This was stated by Prince Ranariddh in Kandal Province and again in Kompong Cham when he made such claims. The truth is that his highness long ago resigned from the FUNCINPEC party. There was the claim that voting for FUNCINPEC is voting for His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk. On this point, in his speech in Battambang, his highness clearly stressed that there will be two elections: a constituent assembly election and a presidential election. He clearly pointed out concerning the constituent assembly election that he was not going to be a candidate in the constituent assembly election at all because he did not belong to any political party. Although he founded the FUNCINPEC Party and was part of the former tritpartite Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea [CGRK]—made up also of Son Sann's party and the party of Democratic Kampuchea of the Khmer Rouge—he pulled out of both the FUNCINPEC Party and the CGDK. He said he was not going to be a candidate in the constituent assembly election. He will vote but his ballot will be a blank ballot. He has the same right as other citizens to vote like other citizens, but his vote will not count because it will be a blank ballot because it represents neutrality and impartiality. He is the father of national reconciliation staying above all and having equal esteem for all political parties.

As far as the presidential election is concerned, our party has already offered its candidacy to his highness. If his highness runs for president, our party may not field any candidate against him. If his highness runs for president and the people cast ballots for him, then it will be voting for his highness. Voting for FUNCINPEC is certainly not voting for his highness. If you vote for FUNCINPEC, it means that you are voting for FUNCINPEC and not for his highness.

Now all political parties enjoy an equal right to campaign for votes. FUNCINPEC and the CPP both have the same right in this matter. Do not mislead the people into voting for one's party.

Second, let us talk about the alliance with the Khmer Rouge. The two parties that associated themselves with the Khmer Rouge during the CGDK years remain allies of the Khmer Rouge. Dealing with this issue might sound monotonous, redundant. But I want to argue Prince Ranariddh's claim that FUNCINPEC is not an ally of the Khmer Rouge. At the Kompong Cham rally when he yelled to his audience: "Do you hate the Khmer Rouge?" the answer was: "We hate the Khmer Rouge!" That was simply a veneer. In reality, they have formed an alliance with the Khmer Rouge. Do we have proof? Yes, we have.

Three major generals made a political decision to quit FUNCINPEC and join our CPP. These are Major Generals Kan Rat, Su Kimsun, and Kim Hang. Maj. Gen. Su Kimsun was chairman of the FUNCINPEC Party Electoral Committee in Phnom Penh and the second most important candidate after Prince Ranariddh. He is now with our CPP. The third defector is Maj. Gen. Kim Hang. These three generals clearly told us of the alliance between FUNCINPEC and the Khmer Rouge. It was because of that alliance that they could no longer stay with FUNCINPEC. They thus made a political decision to pull out of FUNCINPEC.

The second cause of their defection was their unhappiness with Prince Ranariddh. They clearly told us of that. These are not my words, but the words of the three major generals. They also said that allowing FUNCINPEC to win the election is like voting for the Khmer Rouge because the power will fall into the hands of the Khmer Rouge. This is what Maj. Gen. Kim Hang said. He further said Prince Ranariddh is an educated person; he should be more far- sighted, especially concerning the danger to the lives of the people presented by the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. Voting for FUNCINPEC is tantamount to opening the door for the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. There are witnesses to that. It is not a fiction invented by the CPP. It is undeniably an alliance.

Another witness comes from the Khmer Rouge army. A deputy commander of a Khmer Rouge company surrendered to the CPP and SOC in Kompong Cham. This Khmer Rouge soldier clearly told us about the Khmer Rouge-FUNCINPEC alliance. Khmer Rouge forces have already been coordinating with those of FUNCINPEC.

Maj. Gen. Kim Hang said that 50 percent of the population of the FUNCINPEC-controlled Rumchang area is Khmer Rouge living side by side with the FUNCINPEC people. These Khmer Rouge are in a man-to-man position to cover the FUNCINPEC people. That is so [words indistinct]. However, in his statements Prince Ranariddh has kept denying that his party has any alliance with the Khmer Rouge. But the truth is we have many witnesses to prove the contrary. Many generals have already made a political decision to join our CPP. And more will cross over soon. So, we have these generals and a man from the Khmer Rouge as our witnesses.

As Hun Sen said, they manage to hide their heads but they leave their butts hanging out in the open. [laughs] Yes, they are hiding their heads and leaving their butts out in the open now. We have witnesses to prove that they lie. The alliance between the three parties—FUNCINPEC-Son Sann-the Khmer Rouge—is irrefutable.

In raising this issue, I have no intention of hurting or exposing the other parties. I bring this up only to vindicate the truth. Moreover, seeing that the CPP gets the No. 1 slot on the ballot, in his statement in Kompong Cham Prince Ranariddh told his audience that the FUNCINPEC party is running as the No. 1, that everything is No. 1, including the charges that the CPP and SOC are No. 1 in permitting Vietnam to move the borderline deep into Cambodian territory, that we are No. 1 in selling timber, and that we are No. 1 in selling land. However, when he made the last two charges, he seemed to have kept his voice noticeably down.

Now, let me talk about the No. 1 thing, just to make things clear. First, let me deal with the border issue. It has always been the opposition's policy to accuse the CPP and SOC of permitting Vietnam to move the borderline into Cambodian territory. One day Prince Ranariddh addressed his party members in Paris after attending the Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting in Phnom Penh. In that statement, he first talked about the FUNCINPEC party, saying that it had achieved 100 percent success. Second, he dealt with the border issue, the loss of territory. He said that the loss of territory was the result of Vietnam moving the border stones into Cambodian territory with the approval of our CPP and SOC. The truth is that our SOC represented by Hun Sen signed a border agreement with the Vietnamese Government on the basis of the 1:100,000 map that was published by the Indochinese Geographical Group—that is, published by the French. I want all of you to hear this out.

Later on, during the SNC meeting in Siem Reap, Prince Ranariddh urged his highness to accept a 1:50,000 map published by the United States. Allow me to tell you about this 1:50,000 map, to cite one example of the inaccuracy of this 1:50,000 map. Just take the birthplace of Heng Samrin. On the 1:100,000 map, the borderline runs east of Heng Samrin's birthplace with even another village in between. But according to the 1:50,000 map, the borderline runs west of Heng Samrin's village. If the SNC had agreed to take this 1:50,000 map as proposed by Prince Ranariddh, we would have lost Heng Samrin's village to Vietnam. That village would no longer be a Cambodian village and the birthplace of Heng Samrin.

So, while accusing the CPP and SOC of permitting Vietnam to move the borderline into Cambodian territory, Prince Ranariddh instead proposed that his highness use a map that would have turned Heng Samrin's village into a Vietnamese village. This is the end of controversy. Fortunately the SNC opted for the 1:100,000 map. Discussions at past SNC meetings were all based on the 1:100,000 map that Hun Sen used as a backup to sign an agreement with the SRV concerning land and maritime borders, including the Poulo Wai Island. I am not going to dwell any further on this. You must have already heard Hun Sen's statement in which he made a detailed analysis of the border issue. If I raise this question it is only to answer Prince Ranariddh's timeworn contention that the CPP and SOC are No. 1 in permitting Vietnam to move the borderline into Cambodian territory.

Concerning the land issue, they have charged the SOC with being No. 1 in selling land. I do not understand why they have made this charge. In rehabilitating and developing the national community we need to tap every resource, including tourism. We now even have the General Department of Tourism to handle this sector. To promote tourism, you need to have hotels for tourists to stay in. Tourism also calls for the availability of electric power and communications roads. We need to restore all of that. But considering our national budget, we just cannot meet all those reconstruction needs. For this reason, our CPP has liberalized political and economic programs and appealed to foreign companies to come and invest in Cambodia. Some companies want to build hotels for tourists. In order to build hotels they need to have land to build on. Where can they get the land? They must rent it, for these hotels are not built on the moon; they are built here, on earth. If the government does not permit land to be rented where can they get land to build the hotels on? Otherwise they would have to build them on the moon. These foreign companies are thus building 100- or 200-room hotels. When the owners or the companies that own these hotels have to go back to their countries, will they take these hotels along with them? No. These hotels will remain the property of the country in which they are built. They cannot be taken out. However, in his misleading propaganda statements, Prince Ranariddh always lies to the people that our SOC is No. 1 in selling land.

Let me talk a little about Prince Chakkrapong. He was with FUNCINPEC before. When HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk left FUNCINPEC, Prince Chakkrapong also left FUNCINPEC and joined the CPP. He has also become a Standing Committee member of the CPP Central Committee, a high position in the party. In the government he is vice chairman of the Council of Ministers or, in other words, deputy prime minister. The

FUNCINPEC party is now spreading words that this Prince Chakkrapong is not Price Chakkrapong at all, that he is an impostor. But we have a (?princess) to bear witness. She is Princess Sisowath Botum, not Botumbopha. If we want to be sure that he really is Prince Chakkrapong, next time I will invite Princess Botum to describe the royal family tree for you to see whether Prince Chakkrapong really is a son of his highness or an impostor.

So, we now have a witness. She is from the Sisowath branch, the line of his highness' mother. As you know, the Norodom branch is the line of his highness' father. This is Sisowath Botum. The provincial governor just now erroneously called her Sisowath Botumbopha. She is simply Botum. Princess Botum has also joined our CPP. She is one of our best spokesmen in the campaign for our CPP. Now FUNCINPEC has charged that our Prince Chakkrapong is an impostor and that Mr. Keat Chhon is one, too. They maintain that the present Keat Chhon is in reality his younger brother. No one knows where the real Keat Chhon is. They have spread these lies all around, and have told many other lies as well.

Moreover, Prince Ranariddh said we are also No. 1 in selling timber. Allow me to clarify this matter. In the past our SOC and CPP did sell some timber in order to meet the needs of national rehabilitation and development. We sold timber to get hard currency necessary for our national rehabilitation and development efforts. We sold both logs and processed timber. Since the SNC imposed a ban on log exports, we have stopped selling logs and have sold only processed timber.

We should also talk about the FUNCINPEC party: Does it sell timber or not? We have witnesses to testify that FUNCINPEC also sells timber at the Cambodian-Thai border. That region has been almost completely denuded of trees. Both Maj. Gen. Kim Hang and Maj. Gen. Kan Rat told us that FUNCINPEC had sold 750 million baht worth of timber. Where has all that money gone? According to the two generals, the prince has shared it with his cronies. The subordinates have not received anything at all. In the FUNCINPEC-controlled Rumchang village, life is harsh. There are no roads, no schools there. We saw that place on TV when UNTAC filmed its electoral registration activities there. The local people live a miserable life. If they had used part of the considerable sum of money earned from the timber sales to finance construction in the FUNCINPEC-controlled region, the few people there would have enjoyed greatly improved living conditions. Are they not No. 1 too? Is FUNCINPEC not No. 1 in selling timber? Of course, it is.

All of this is merely a reaction to the propaganda allegations made by Prince Ranaridh in Kandal and Kompong Cham Provinces.

Now, allow me to speak a little more about the alliance with the Khmer Rouge. How serious is this alliance? One day I paid a call on his highness. He told me that two days before I came Prince Ranariddh had also visited him. His Highness said that Prince Ranariddh seemed very excited, very ebullient. He said Prince Ranariddh was happy because the Khmer Rouge had asked him to join them in attacking and toppling Phnom Penh. They promised him this: When the Heng Samrin regime falls, the Khmer Rouge will hand over all the power to Prince Ranariddh and will follow his leadership.

His Highness said he told his son to take a good look at the past between 1970 and 1975 and between 1975 and 1978-79. How was your Papa then? he asks. He usually refers to himself as Papa when he speaks to his children. Papa was a famous head of state. After Lon Nol outsted Papa, Papa stayed in exile and joined the national liberation movement as chairman of the National United Front and head of the Royal Government of National Union until we won victory on 17 April 1975. He asked: What did the Khmer Rouge give Papa?

They gave him two things. First, when his highness arrived in Phnom Penh, they put him under house arrest in the Khemarin Pavilion, surrounded by brick walls, fronted by squeeky doors, sleeping under a leaky roof. He was given one duck egg to eat per week.

And the princess royal consort also told me: Excellency, when the Khmer Rouge were in power, I had a very tough life in jail.

The second gift to his highness from the Khmer Rouge was that they killed five of his sons who were born of the same mother as Prince Rannariddh and 14 of his grandchildren who were his blood nieces and nephews.

His highness went on: Son, Papa was a very famous head of state and the Khmer Rouge did not hesitate to do what they did to Papa. With you, the Khmer Rouge would not have to think twice. Do not forget that if the Khmer Rouge say they are following you it means they are taking you to Tuol Sleng prison. There is a precedent for that. So, Prince Ranariddh was happy at that time.

Moreover, his highness often recalled the fact that when he was imprisoned in Khemarin Pavilion, if the CPP and SOC had not toppled the genocidal Pol Pot regime he would never have been released from that place. He repeatedly and clearly noted that fact. This means that he has given justice to the CPP. There is another point of note: It was also thanks to the CPP that he was able to return to the motherland. At that time it was Hun Sen who, under assignment of the CPP and SOC government, went to welcome him home from Beijing. When his highness landed in the motherland, he also praised the CPP, saying that it was thanks to the CPP that he could return home. He went on to say that if the Khmer Rouge return to power he will never come back to Cambodia. This is what he clearly stated. If the Khmer Rouge take power, his highness will go abroad and will never return home again. If he returns, the Khmer Rouge will not spare him. He said that being killed by the Khmer Rouge has no meaning at all. He is not afraid of dying, especially dying for the nation and people, but dying at the hands of the Khmer Rouge has no meaning at all for him.

However, the FUNCINPEC party is conspiring with the Khmer Rouge and forging an alliance with the Khmer Rouge seemingly in an attempt to leave the door open for the Khmer Rouge's return to power. [words indistinct] HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk wanted to see FUNCINPEC establish an alliance with the CPP, and the two parties are the children of His Highness. The FUNCINPEC party agreed to sign a pact with the CPP. Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh signed the pact at 1000 on 21 November 1991. But at 1700 the same day Prince Ranariddh signed another pact with Khieu Samphan. This means that Prince Ranariddh signed an agreement with the CPP as if he were playing a game. Yes, it was a game of deception. Nothing more. The real pact he signed was the one with the Khmer Rouge. He signed a pact with the Khmer Rouge and conducted concrete activities in coordination with the Khmer Rouge. Some FUNCINPEC offices are even manned by Khmer Rouge elements. This is the truth.

Now, I would like to talk about the elections. Speaking of the elections, the CPP wants the people to vote for it. If the people vote for the CPP, it will be an answer to the wishes of the people. What do the people want to have? First, they want peace, they want to live in genuine peace. Second, they want to block the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. Only the force of our CPP can prevent the Polpotist regime from returning. Up to now we have been able to prevent their return, and we will be able to prevent them in the future. [words indistinct]

Another important issue is that all of you, venerable Buddhist monks and compatriots, have not forgotten the bitter experiences during the three years, eight months, and 20 days under the genocidal Pol Pot regime. At that time, the people were in a total gloom, completely lost and hopeless. They did not know what to do to free themselves. The only thing they could do was appeal to anyone who was brave and capable of saving them. They especially prayed to the angels to come to their rescue. Now, see that angel? She is coming down to help you. [laughs] The angels usually stay in the heavens. They have come down to earth now as the logo of our party.

I wanted to say that the struggle to topple the genocidal Pol Pot regime was waged by the CPP alone. No other political parties have helped us fight the Khmer Rouge. The people's rebirth during the past 14 years was also made possible thanks to the CPP and SOC alone and no other political parties. For this reason, I hope the people will never forget the CPP, which has saved them from the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

According to Buddhism, one who has given assistance to others is called a benefactor and those who have received his favors should return his good service. Those who repay the services received are called grateful people. This means that the CPP is the benefactor of the people, for it saved the people from certain death. According to Buddhism, those who were saved from Pol Pot's genocidal danger should have gratitude toward their savior, which is the CPP.

The CPP wants to be repaid with a vote from each citizen. Yes, that is what we want. Do not forget to cast your ballots for the CPP. Do not forget to pay your gratitude to anyone who has saved your life. Give us your vote, please. And before casting your ballot, each of you must examine and judge thoroughly, for there are 20 parties contending in the elections. Of course, the citizens have the right and freedom to vote for any political party they like. But before casting the ballot, each of you must consider these three questions:

First, you should think about preventing the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. Second, you should consider which party is strong enough to prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. And third, I already dealt with this point when I talked about benefactors and gratitude. Which party has saved your lives up to the present? These three questions are the foundation for you in making your decision on which party you should vote for. What is important here is that I want the people to vote for the CPP. If you vote for it, it means that you are grateful to your benefactor. [laughs] I, like the rest of the people, have never been ungrateful. We always offer gratitude to our benefactors.

Only Pol Pot is ungrateful. He came to power thanks to the people, to the armed forces. He repaid them by massacring more than 3 million innocent people, including fetuses and babies. Let me cite a concrete example of his ungratefulness. During the years of his political struggle, Pol Pot was sheltered for a long time in Bos village. Some sympathizers let him hide in their houses and fed him. When he defecated, they took his feces out for him. He ate the best food they had. When it was time for Pol Pot to pay back the people of Bos village, he massacred all but one family. Only Pol Pot is ungrateful. He has never been known for showing gratitude to anyone.

Even Mr. Salot Soeung and Grandma On Sani—Pol Pot's own brother and sister-in-law—barely made it thanks only to the 2 December Kampuchean National Salvation Front [KNSF]. Without the help of the Day of 7 January [7 January 1979, the day Vietnam invaded Cambodia to drive the Khmer Rouge from power] both of them would have died. This was said by Pol Pot's elder brother himself. Another man is Khieu Sengkim, Khieu Samphan's younger brother. He, too, barely made it. He said that without the help of the 2 December KNSF and the Day of 7 January he would have died. So, all those in the genocidal Pol Pot regime are ungrateful.

Moreover, under the Pol Pot regime, parents were not considered worthy of gratitude. They said childbirth was merely a result of the parents' sexual pleasuring. That was one of Pol Pot's opinions. From there, they eliminated Buddhism and other religions, such as Islam. At that time, they regarded Buddhist monks simply as lazy, idle children. I beg your pardon, Venerable, but that was the truth.

They abolished religions. Therefore, all these persons are ungrateful. They ignore the benefit gained from teachers, parents, and people. They could wield power for three years eight months and 20 days all thanks to the people but they repaid this service by massacring more than 3 million people. This is how the Polpotists are. And now the FUNCINPEC Party is conspiring with them maybe in order to bring back the genocidal Pol Pot regime. If that is the case, religions will be abolished again; we will have to go back to the cooperatives, eat in common, and sleep in longhouses again; all the properties and valuables that we have accumulated over the past 14 years will be collectivized again, including all the cars, motorcycles, bikes, and other properties. This is called collectivization.

Moreover, the Khmer Rouge have already announced that if they win they will do again what they did before. A certain political party has been going around accusing us of being incompetent and our regime of being corrupt. If it wins the elections it promises to straighten things out. Just hearing that things are going to be straightened out makes my flesh crawl, for only the Khmer Rouge could have such a policy. And that party claims that it will straighten things out like the Khmer Rouge!

Well, it is now high noon and I feel it is time to end my speech here. Before concluding, let me ask you one thing: We came out en masse to this meeting in order to inaugurate the school building and conduct the electoral campaign. The CPP would like to ask each of you to vote for it. There are 20 parties in all. The CPP with an angel as its logo is the first on the list, for angels always fly high, never below anybody else. Angels are in the heavens. Now they have come down to earth to see whether the people want to go with the angels or anybody else. If the people refuse to go with the angels, then they have committed a taboo. This is what the angels tell me. If you do not go with the angels, you surely have committed a taboo.

Now let me ask you this: Are you going to vote for the party with an angel as its logo? Are you voting for it? Please raise your hands. [laughs] Very well. I thank you very much.

Yes, we are going to be successful in Prey Veng. Sin Song, head of the Prey Veng constituency is running here. He is a very good man. Also running here are Mr. Yut Phuthang, Mr. Ek Sam-ol, Mr. Van Sun-heng from the Information and Cultural Department, Mr. Cheam Yiep from the General Department of Tourism, Mr. Som Kanh-nha, Mr. Loy Sophat, and several others. H.E. Sin Song is surely going to introduce them more in detail on the campaign trail. I therefore end my speech here. Before ending it, I extend to all of you my best wishes and may the powers of the triple jewels of Buddhism, Brahma, Indra, and again all angels come down and influence all of you to cast your ballots for the CPP symbolized by the flying angel. May all of you enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha. Thank you.

Indonesia

Official on Rice Exports to Africa, Sri Lanka

BK0405082093 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0800 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Jakarta, May 04 (ANTARA)—Indonesia has exported 130,000 tons of rice to a number of African countries and Sri Lanka, a national Logistic Board (Bulog) official has said.

Beddu Amang, Bulog's deputy chairman said the country sold the commodity at US$190 per ton. In the near future Indonesia will also export the commodity to Malaysia, he said.

At the initial stage we will export 10,000 tons of rice, he said without mentioning total figures.

French TV To Be Beamed to Southeast Asia

BK0405094493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1211 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Jakarta, April 29 (AFP)—French television programmes will be beamed to southeast Asia by Indonesia's Palapa satellite from next month, France's Ambassador in Jakarta announced Thursday.

Dominique Girard told a press conference here that sending the signal via Palapa, which includes the former French Indochinese countries of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos in its "footprint", would considerably improve reception quality.

For the last 18 months station Canal France International (CFI) has been beamed via the Intelsat 5 satellite, which is rather unstable and coming to the end of its useful life.

In Indonesia viewers can add CFI to CNN from the United States, Australia's ABC and various Thai channels as well as domestic programmes on the national satellite.

The Palapa service will cost CFI, which does not run advertisements, 1.3 million dollars annually.

Launched in 1989, the CFI service consists of programmes produced by various French domestic channels.

It is now available in 100 countries worldwide, including many African nations.

Some programmes are dubbed or subtitled in English to attract a wider audience.

Other programmes may be dubbed into Indonesian with French technical help.

Girard said programming would not be censored by the French side but CFI took account of moral and religious sensitivities in its prgramming.

Economists, Officials Defend Investment in China

BK3004150393 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 14 Apr 93 p 9

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Increasing Indonesian investment in China should not necessarily be cause for alarm, a noted economist and government officials say.

"The money the businessmen use for their projects in China might not all come from Indonesia because high interest rates here make Indonesian capital very costly," economist Mari Pangestu said here yesterday, adding that profits from the business would benefit the state.

She and two senior government officials said the authorities could reduce the outflow of investment from Indonesia to other countries by improving the investment and business climate.

"We cannot block their needs to invest in any projects in other countries," Director General of Machinery, Basic Metal and Electronics Industries Suparno Prawiroadirejo [sentence as published]. "But if they make profits over there they have to pay the necessary taxes here."

Sugihono Kadarisman, an executive of the Investment Coordinating Board, BKPM, commented that Indonesia had to admit that China offers a number of attractive incentives, including low labor costs, abundant natural resources and a good high-technology base.

"We have to adapt ourselves to living in the nature of competition in this world," the BKPM deputy officer for promotion said.

Suparno, Mari and Kadarisman were asked about the issue by reporters at the opening ceremony of a four-day exhibition on electronics manufacturing and supporting industries at the Kemayoran fair grounds here. The exhibition was opened by Suparno.

The issue sparked strong criticism from various parties here shortly after Indonesian Ambassador to China Abdurrahman Gunadirja announced that Indonesian investment in China had reached an estimated total of HK$6.6 billion (US$797.49 million).

The critics charged that Indonesian investment in China was a means for investors, most of whom are Chinese-Indonesians, to send their capital to the home of their ancestors.

Ambassador Abdurrahman told Indonesian reporters in Beijing last week that most of the investment capital was used for infrastructure development, such as sea port facilities, road, real estate and industrial estates.

Many observers here were irked by this statement as Indonesia's own infrastructure remains underdeveloped.

Ongkowijaya, head of the Center for Chinese Studies, said the increasing choice of China for Chinese-Indonesian businessmen satisfied filial as well as business interests.

Reports said that most of the projects financed partly or wholly by Indonesian businessmen are located in the Fujian capital of Fuzhou, the birth place of several noted tycoons, including Mokhtar Riad of the Lippo Group and Sudono Salim (Liem Siu Liong) of the Salim Group.

Eka Tjipta Wijaja of the Sinar Mas Group and Gondokusumo are among the Indonesian investors believed to have made huge investments in China.

The value of investments financed by Indonesian investors "together with their partners" in China could reach more than $1 billion at present but it remains difficult to ascertain a precise figure.

According to Abdurrahman, Indonesian investors have never reported their activities in China.

The $797.49 million figured out by the ambassador is just from Lippo Group, together with its partners, for the development of seaport container facilities, infrastructure and industrial estates in Fuzhou and Putian, both in Fujian province.

Salim has reportedly reached an agreement with its five Singaporean partners to develop an industrial estate with an investment of more than S$300 million (approximately $184.78 million).

Hong Kong Economic Journal reported last October that Salim group had already invested more than $113.5 million in real estate, industrial ventures and a hotel also in the same province.

Mari and Kadarisman said that Indonesia was not the only country whose investment was going to China.

"Other countries in Southeast Asia are also facing the same fate because China at the moment is still more attractive for investment," Mari sald.

"Like other developing countries, China also offers various attractive incentives. We, of course, could not ask them to stop their efforts to attract investors," Kadarisman said.

This was one consequence for a country like Indonesia which has a free foreign exchange system, Suparno and Kadarisman said.

Suparno, Kadarisman and Mari agreed that the only way to limit the outflow of funds would be to further improve the investment climate in Indonesia.

Suparno said that the government will continue its efforts to provide attractive, effective and efficient business climate in this country.

"If China could provide a good climate and promising business, investors worldwide, not only from Indonesia, would intend to set up projects there," Mari said. "That's business."

Kadarisman urged Indonesian investors intending to open projects overseas not to finance infrastructure projects.

"It's true that there's no law to forbid such intention, but we of course do want to see such kind of projects," he said.

Mari suggested that Indonesian investors who finance the construction of infrastructure facilities in foreign countries use materials from Indonesia.

Mari, however, reminded the Indonesian investors to be more careful in financing projects in China as many foreign investors have already faced significant bad problems in that country due to the uncertainties of laws there.

Laos

PASASON Views Significance of 1,000-Kip Notes

BK0605092793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 6 May 93

[Editorial from 6 May PASASON: "Significance of Bringing the 1,000-kip Bank Notes Into Circulation"]

[Text] Respected listeners, as reported earlier, the Bank of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] will put into circulation 1,000-kip bank notes in early May 1993, with the approval of the Government of the LPDR. The circulation of this type of currency notes will begin in the capital of Vientiane and will later be gradually expanded throughout the country. This means that beginning in May this year, we will have the 1,000-kip bank notes for use along with the existing 1-kip, 5-kip, 10-kip, 20-kip, 50-kip, 100-kip, and 500-kip notes. This is the first time that the Bank of the LPDR has issued and put into circulation the 1,000-kip currency notes since the establishment of the LPDR.

It is certain that the news on the issuance and circulation of the 1,000-kip notes will be widely welcomed and supported by merchants and businessmen as well as the multiethnic people as they will enjoy more conveniences in carrying out their goods production and running their trading businesses. At the same time, however, the circulation of the new bank notes might create confusion or misunderstanding among a number of persons who have maintained ill intentions toward the nation. These ill-intentioned elements might take advantage of the situation to hoard goods, increase commodity prices, and reduce the value of kip when making exchanges with other foreign currencies. They might also show their ill intentions through other forms of acts, such as slanderous propaganda against policies on various fields as adopted by our party and state. This would be done with a view to creating distrust of the masses in the value of kip currency. The aforesaid practice prevailed in the past. In view of this, it is necessary for us to effectively carry out political and ideological work and firmly grasp the correct political and ideological line of thinking. Party and administrative committees at all levels and all financial cadres should also turn to the grass roots to explain to all traders, businessmen, and people to clearly understand the fact that the issuance and circulation of the 1,000-kip bank notes is not a result of inflation or the drop in the value of kip currency or the delay in the circulation of money as understood by certain people. Placing the new 1,000-kip notes into circulation is in conformity with the correct economic policy of the party and state, the policy which has been widely supported by our Lao people as well as by foreign investors who have put up ever more capital by making investments in our country. The circulation of the 1,000-kip notes is also intended to serve the active labor of our people. In addition, it will bring about a new and better shape to our country and development to our national economy.

The Bank of the LPDR has issued and put into circulation the said 1,000-kip notes for these reasons and to create convenience for payments when carrying out trading and service business. This has been done with the approval of the LPDR Government. The circulation of the new bank notes does not at all affect foreign currency exchanges. This means that all foreign currency exchange rates remain the same. In view of this fact, the circulation of the new bank notes, therefore, does not affect prices of goods in the markets.

All traders, businessmen, and our people are requested to clearly understand the significance of placing the 1,000-kip notes into circulation. We should not worry about this or immediately believe in deceitful propaganda of ill-intentioned elements. We should, instead, firmly adhere to the line and policy of the party and state, and then together strive to carry out production, business, and service work in an ever more effective manner in order to build and develop our country to make it become prosperous and to enhance the vaue of our kip currency. Let us help maintain the value of our kip currency as compared to foreign currencies.

Along with this, we must help check, educate, and train the bad elements who are likely to take advantage of the situation to raise commodity prices or to pursue various tricks with the intention of creating disturbances and depreciating the value of kip currency. We must consciously and strictly comply with various regulations and laws, particularly the law concerning financial affairs. We must responsively pay taxes and implement the regulations on currency exchanges. At the same time, we must fully fulfill various obligations toward the state. By doing these things, we deserve to be good citizens or precious businessmen who truly cherish the country.

Rice Production Expected To Increase

BK0505131893 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 22 Apr 93 p 2

[Feature: "In 1993, Laos Will Strive To Produce About 1.6 Million Metric Tons of Rice"]

[Summary] "The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has appointed ministerial-level personnel and technical cadres to go down to almost all localities in 1993 as part of the implementation of Prime Minister's Decree No. 21 on boosting agricultural production and on the strategy of food production from now to the year 2000. These personnel will provide guidance and assistance to the people to carry out agricultural production for commercial purposes and to strive to produce and estimated 1.6 million metric tons of rice in 1993."

According to Kou Chansima, director of the Crop Cultivation and Agricultural Promotion Department, the ministry plans to encourage farmers to use early rice seeds for planting this year on six major plains, namely the Vientiane, Bolikhamsai, Se Bangfai, Se Banghiang, Champassak, and Sedon plains and in five provinces earmarked for intensive development, namely Vientiane and Xieng Khouang Provinces, Vientiane Municipality, and Bolikhamsai and Khammouane Provinces. The department will also encourage people to use organic fertilizer in rice farming and local herbal insecticides to fight crop pests. In addition, the department also will persuade farmers to employ new techniques and irrigation facilities to help nourish rice plants.

Philippines

Japanese Reportedly Supporting Muslim Rebels

HK0605061393 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 6 May 93 p 8

[Report by Bong Reblando]

[Text] A top separatist rebel leader in Mindanao said that Japanese supporters of the separatist movement have paid hospital bills of rebels treated for gunshot wounds in several hospitals in Japan.

Al Haj Murad, chief of staff of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF), military arm of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said yesterday that 13 rebel field commanders were airlifted to Japan in 1986 via the Manila International Airport without being checked or noticed by airport security forces.

He said the wounded rebels underwent surgery and recuperated in Japanese hospitals for months.

The travel of rebels to Japan came about because of the refusal of Philippine doctors to perform surgical operations on the wounded insurgents and the absence of sophisticated equipment.

Murad, the bearded MILF chief of staff who belonged to the Batch of 300 Muslim youths trained in Malaysia and Libya of the once united MNLF faction, gave an exclusive interview to the Manila Bulletin at his rebel lair in the jungles of Central Mindanao.

Thai Conglomerate Buys Stocks in Ceramic Venture

HK0605064493 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 6 May 93 p B-1

[Report by Ellen S. Marcelo]

[Text] The Siam Cement Group of Thailand has taken a 37 percent stake in Mariwasa Manufacturing, Inc. to kick off for a P1-billion [Philippine pesos] joint venture in ceramic tile manufacture.

The Thai conglomerate, it was learned, would also explore the possibility of teaming up with another local firm in a bid for the government-controlled Paper industries Corp. of the Philippines.

Siam Cement, the biggest Thai conglomerate, paid $10 million for the 37 percent ownership in Mariwasa via a block sale at the Manila Stock Exchange last Friday.

The group, whose interests range from construction materials, including cement and steel to pulp and paper, plastics, glass, electrical products, and machinery, boasts of a $2.5 billion sales turnover and an asset-backing of $3 billion.

An official of Mariwasa disclosed yesterday that Siam's equity participation in the company will be increased to 40 percent to partly finance its expansion project, which will be put up in Cavite or Batangas.

Planned expansion of Mariwasa will double its capacity in two years from 10,000 square meters of ceramic tiles a day. About 20 percent of the expanded production will be geared for the export market, according to Mariwasa treasure Angel Ong.

Siam Cement currently operates the most modern facility for ceremic tiles in Southeast Asia, which is capable of turning out 50,000 square meters a day.

Mariwasa, on the other hand, controls an estimated 50 percent of the market. Its revenues last year amounted to P450 million.

"We have decided to forge an alliance to boost our competitiveness in the export market in the light of the operationalization of the Asean Free Trade Area, and hopefully to become a force that can be reckoned with in the region," Ong said.

Siam Cement's equity infusion into Mariwasa will entitle it to five seats in the company's 14-man board. The Coseteng Group, the existing majority local owner, will control 9 seats in the board.

Prior to the implementation of the expansion project, Mariwasa will raise its capital to over P1 billion from the present P650 million.

Netherlands Firm To Provide Loan for MSC Firm

HK0605060093 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 6 May 93 p 3

[Report by Rose Maipid]

[Text] Executives from the Netherlands Development Finance Co (FMO) will sign today a $2.5 million loan for chip design firm Music Semiconductors Corp (MSC).

In an exclusive interview with BUSINESS WORLD, FMO managing director and chief executive officer L.B.M. Mennes said the loan is part of an $11 million investment package which the Hague-based bank has lined up for the Philippines this year.

FMO is teaming up with H and Q Ventures and the European Community for the foreign long term loan and equity components of the P165 million-worth [Philippine pesos] MSC project.

MSC will be undertaking the final electrical testing of semiconductor devices produced in-house and by other semiconductor firms here and abroad.

Aside from the MSC loan, FMO will also be investing $6 million in the expansion of coconut oil manufacturer Primofina Oleochemicals, Inc.

The Primofina investment is also a joint financing venture, this time between the London-based Commonwealth Development Co, the Asian Development Bank [ADB] and ADB affiliate Asian Finance and Investment Corp.

Dr Mennes said the FMO is waiting for the ADB private sector department to get the project approved by the ADB board. He is hopeful, though, that the loan package will be wrapped up before June this year.

A third loan worth another $2.5 million is also in the FMO pipeline for chip factory Team Pacific Corp.

"We are interested in the expansion of our investments in the Philippines. If an economy shows a high rate of growth, low inflation, political stability and a good work force, it is not likely to have problems with investors," Dr Mennes said.

Nonetheless, Dr Mennes is cautiously optimistic about FMO's future investment exposures in the country.

He said FMO will be willing to increase the Philippines' percent share of its total investment portfolio from the current 5% to 8%—or from $40 million to $60 million—but only if economic growth, political stability and inflation remain in check in the next two years.

He noted the country has covered much ground already in that "the human resource situation is well-developed, financial policies are on track, inflation is down and the devaluation points to a sliding market."

"We are willing to provide financing for a project provided systems of tariffs and subsidies disappear, the company involved is competitive, it provides for employment growth and is environmentally safe," he added.

FMO lends to the private sector either directly or through development banks—Planters Development Bank and Northern Mindanao Development Bank—in which it has an equity stake.

FMO's other investments in the Philippines include loan and equity positions in Union Ajinomoto, Shemberg Marketing Co, Philippines Long Distance Telephone Co, Jorgenetics Swine Improvement Corp, Jorgensons Swine Multiplier Corp and East West Seed Co, Inc.

Ramos Appoints Ambassador to Mexico

HK0405051593 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 4 May 93 p 4

[Report by F. V. Maragay]

[Excerpt] Industrialist Manuel Elizalde, Jr. has been appointed by President Ramos as ambassador to Mexico.

Elizalde, who served as presidential adviser on national minorities under the Marcos government, is among the 11 political and career ambassadors whose nominations have been submitted to the Commission on Appointments (CA). [passage omitted]

Press Secretary Resigns; Ramos Delays Acceptance

HK0605025093 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 5 May 93

[Interview with Philippines Press Secretary Rod Reyes by DZRH anchorman Joe Taruc and reporter Rey Sibayan on 5 May; place not given—live]

[Text] Press Secretary Rod Reyes has resigned. He submitted his resignation letter this noon to the president's office.

In his letter, Reyes mentioned two reasons for resigning as the first press secretary of President Ramos. He mentioned health reasons and the worsening of his relations with presidential spokesperson Annabelle Abaya.

The president told Reyes to stay on until a replacement is found. Let's find out the details from the report of DZRH No. 11. Go ahead, Rey Sibayan.

[Sibayan] President Ramos told Press Secretary Rod Reyes to remain in his position even if he had resigned. President Ramos met with Secretary Reyes this afternoon after receiving the resignation letter.

Reyes will remain in his position while a final decision has not been made by the president. Earlier, Reyes presented his resignation letter, citing his worsening health and conflict with presidential spokesperson Annabel Tecson Abaya.

Reyes said he and Abaya have disagreed on a number of things connected with the discharge of his duties. It was learned that one of these was Abaya's refusal to rehire former employees who worked under Reyes.

There was also disagreement between them on who should accompany President Ramos during his state visits. According to a source in Malacanang, Abaya insisted on being in the presidential party when President Ramos visits South Korea, but Reyes was chosen to go because he is the press secretary.

Secretary Reyes also said that he is ready to give way to anyone who will replace him, and who could work well with Abaya. [passage omitted]

Right now, we have Press Secretary Rodolfo Reyes beside us. Let's find out the truth about his resignation, and his discussions with the chief executive. Good afternoon, Secretary Reyes.

[Reyes] Good afternoon to you all.

[Sibayan] Secretary, you talked with President Fidel Ramos. Did he have a decision regarding your resignation and, I understand, you were asked by the president to remain in your position for the meantime?

[Reyes] What he said was to give him two days, and we will know. I think the president will accept my resignation.

[Sibayan] We would just like to clarify your main reasons for resigning.

[Reyes] Principally, it is my health because in the last few days and weeks, I have been weakening. You, of course, know I have had an operation; I had a triple heart by-pass. Besides, I have neglected to exercise. My blood pressure is rising. Uric acid is high. Cholesterol is also high. My doctor asked me to slow down. This is what I told the president when we talked.

[Sibayan] Secretary Reyes, I understand there had been reports about the alleged worsening relations between you and presidential spokesperson Annabelle Abaya.

[Reyes] That is not the main reason. You know, the media would like to report on the intrigues. But that is a small thing.

[Sibayan] Joe [Taruc], you can ask Secretary Reyes additional questions.

[Taruc] Secretary, good afternoon.

[Reyes] Good afternoon, Joe.

[Taruc] What are your plans if your resignation pushes through?

[Reyes] Perhaps, if I can return to private media, I will. I don't know if I will still be accepted.

[Taruc] I'm sure many will accept you. But Mr. Secretary, does the China trip have any connection with your resignation?

[Reyes] There was none. The trip was a success. The president asked me to handle all the press arrangements, including being the spokesman, although I got help from Undersecretary Severino. But the trip was hectic, the schedule was very tight. So when we returned, I was very tired.

[Taruc] For the next press secretary, with this setup where there is a presidential spokesperson and a press secretary, is it the ideal situation or do you want some other things to be done?

[Reyes] That setup is okay. It is appropriate because those are two full-time jobs. And you know, we have a president who works 14 to 16 hours a day. There is really a need for a spokesperson by his side all the time so that everything that needs to be disseminated can be relayed to the nation. If the press secretary is also a spokesperson and will work 16 hours alongside the president, he will not be able to do anything else. That setup is okay, but it requires that both are of the same vibrations.

[Taruc] You and Annabelle do not have the same vibes?

[Reyes] Well, there has been a little misunderstanding.

[Taruc] So it led to this small problem?

[Reyes] [laughs]

House Approves Bills on Taxes, Customs, Others

HK0605054393 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 6 May 93 p 1

[Report by Rod L. Villa]

[Text] The House of Representatives passed on third and final reading yesterday six important bills, two of which are tax-enhancement measures expected to raise P500 million [Philippine pesos] for the goverment.

These are House Bill [HB] 8308 increasing the ad valorem tax rate on cigars and cigarettes; HB 4502 to strengthen the Bureau of Customs; HB 8179 prohibiting the employment of children below 15 years old; HB 167 expanding the jurisdiction of metropolitan, municipal courts and circuit trial courts; HB 7811 declaring the Philippine eagle the national bird; and HB 7823 amending Section 5 of Republic Act 7637.

Other developments in the House:

1. Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. announced the appointment of party whips of the "Rainbow Coalition," the chamber's dominant group, to assure plenary attendance, prevent malingering, and speed up passage of urgent bills.

2. Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, testifying before the House committee on good government, said chairman Haydee Yorac of the National Unification Commission [NUC] is set to tour the capitals of Europe to win support for President Ramos' peace initiatives.

He said it is the understanding of the NUC that the commission is the supreme body in carrying out the peace negotiations between the government and the military rightist rebels. leftist comunists, and Muslim secessionists. De Villa is a member of the NUC.

He punctuated the position of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. that the exploratory talks that may be conducted elsewhere are necessary toward the holding of a climatic conference that must be held in Manila.

Passage of Bill 8308, said Rep. Exequiel Javier (Antique), chairman of the sponsoring House ways and means committee, would plug loopholes in the current system of taxing tobacco products through which government funds hemmorhaged.

This ended over four months of controversy in the House plenary hall. This touched off demonstrations and counter-demonstrations on the highly charged aspects concerning the life and survival of some three million tobacco farmers, most of them in Northern Luzon.

The bill sustained the validity of the ad valorem mode of taxation over the specific tax system, automatically raises the registered wholesale price of cigars and cigarettes to enlarge the taxable base, and, with the proper corrective provisions installed, will raise the taxes from this so-called "sin" industry by P100 million more.

House Bill 4502 mandates the bureau with new and effective powers to prevent technical smuggling as the principal cause of tax evasion and avoidance, accelerate the release of import shipments within 48 hours from unloading, while speeding up seizure proceedings.

Rep. Jose Tan Ramirez (Eastern Samar), vice chairman of the House ways and means committee, stated on "Talakayan [Discussion]" a multi-media forum of IBC TV 13, that the measure is virtual guarantee to achieve the goal of Customs Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr to prevent technical smuggling, rid the service of grafters, and stop the rampant looting and thievery in the various harbor warehouses.

House Bill 8179 prescribes limitations for the employment of children below 15 years old, providing heavier penalties for their violations.

The designation of party whips upholds a political tradition to instill discipline, attendance, advocary and debate in the plenary processes of the legislature.

De Venecia directed Speaker Pro Tempore Raul Daza (Samar) to coordinate the activities of the whips particularly in the voting for vital measures.

Until then, there had been an alarming rate of absenteeism and tardiness, and a lack of attention to vital debates in the House.

Land Reform Program Receives 3.4 Million Hectares

HK3004040293 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 30 Apr 93 p 16

[Report by Conrad M. Carino]

[Text] Around 3.4 million hectares of lands have already been turned over by government agencies to the Department of Agrarian Reform [DAR] as of January this year.

Executive orders No. 407 and 448 mandate government agencies, financial institutions, the Presidential Commission on Good Government [PCGG], and the Asset Privatization Trust [APT] to turn over their idle lands suitable for agriculture for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program [CARP].

The DAR will eventually award to agrarian reform beneficiaries parcels of the 3.4 million hectares of land eligible for the CARP.

The DAR reported that government agencies and financial institutions turned over to DAR around two million hectares of land. Among the financial institutions that turned over their lands for CARP are Quedan Guarantee Fund Board, Republic Planters Bank, Development Bank of the Philippines, Philippine National Bank, Government Service Insurance System, Al Amanah Bank and Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources transmitted 1.4 million hectares of cancelled pasture lease agreements and timber licensing agreements, which will be awarded to ARBs under a stewardship contract.

PCGG and APT jointly turned over 41,149 hectares of sequestered land.

Some 681,618 hectares of land are still in the pipeline from Government.

In a related development, the DAR will hold another round of dialogues with local farmers on the proposed guidelines on leasehold arrangements, which the department hopes to release soon.

Late last year, the DAR already held consultations with farmers and landowners.

The CARP requires landowners to enter into lease rental arrangements to improve the tenurial and economic status of their tenants-farmers.

Section 34 of the 1963 Code of Agrarian Reforms stipulates that tenants receive at least 75% of the production of their rented lands after deducting the expenses for seeds, harvesting, threshing, loading, hauling, and processing whichever are applicable.

A leasehold arrangement is more favorable for the tenant compared to the old share tenancy arrangement, wherein the farmer gets around 33% to 50% of the production of the lands.

Landholdings below the retention limit of five hectares and lands not yet acquired by the DAR for the CARP are required to be covered by leasehold arrangements.

Thailand

No Action on Patent Laws Until GATT Rules Final

BK0605021193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 May 93 p A2

[Text] In a strong indication that Thailand may reject US demands that its patent laws be toughened, Deputy Commerce Minister Churin Laksanawisit yesterday said Bangkok would not take any action until rules on the protection of intellectual property rights are finalized under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt).

The United States is "demanding too much" from Thailand, and it is time the Thai industrial sector proved it can "stand on its own feet" because it can no longer rely on the US market, Churin said.

"What I have learnt from reports of US demands over Thailand's patent laws is that the US is demanding too much and its demands seem to flow on indefinitely," Churin said.

He said he did not believe that Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon, who is now in the US, would make any agreements with US authorities. Uthai's visit should be seen only as a trip to learn about US demands, he indicated.

"We should realize what we can do [to meet US demands] and what we cannot do," he said.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai previously made it clear that changes to Thai patent and copyright laws would be made only in line with international principles, Churin said.

"Thailand will not immediately implement any changes [to its laws] as no final decision has been made on draft rules on intellectual property rights under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt)," Churin said.

The government will await the outcome of the Gatt talks and abide by whatever decision is made, he said.

Chuan said on Sunday that Thailand would abide by international principles but would not bow to any "unacceptable" US demands.

Over the weekend, the US placed Thailand, Brazil and India on its "priority foreign country" watchlist, claiming they had failed to adequately protect US intellectual property rights.

It has given Thailand three months to fall in line or face trade retaliation, probably through increased taxes on imports.

Churin said the US action put negotiations on the bilateral trade dispute "back to square one". While Churin said the United States has the right to make such a demand, he said Thailand has a similar right to decide what is internationally acceptable.

Thai academics have argued that the country's laws already conform with Gatt draft rules on intellectual property rights.

The United States, meanwhile, has warned it could take retaliatory measures before the draft rules are finalized or before a Gatt resolution is made on whether Thai law meets international trade principles.

Officials on Possible Change

BK0605033993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 May 93 p B1

[Text] Thai officials yesterday said the government, in an effort to reach a compromise with the United States over the ongoing trade dispute could use its administrative authority to reduce the power of the Patent Act's compulsory licensing provisions without interfering with legislative affairs.

Over the course of the bilateral negotiations in Washington DC, Thai and US officials came to a "broad" agreement on compulsory licensing, the power of the government to revoke patent licences.

Washington had expressed its displeasure over the Thai government's extensive authority of "compulsory licensing" under the Patent Act.

However, according to a source, Thailand and the United States have not yet bridged their differences over the retroactive protection of drugs which have already been patented but not yet marketed in Thailand—the so-called pipeline period.

Commerce Minister Uthai Pimchaichon is now leading a party of 12 trade officials in talks with the US Trade Representative [USTR] in Washington DC.

Uthai is trying to stop the US from imposing trade sanctions on Thailand.

On April 30, the USTR once again named Thailand on its priority foreign country (PFC) watchlist due to its concern over inadequate protections of intellectual properLy rights for US industries.

PFC countries will be subject to US trade retaliation under the "Special 301" section of the US trade law if they fail to satisfy US demands within three months.

The source said both parties were expected to meet yesterday and admitted that Thai and US officials had also discussed retroactive protection for drugs, one of the more contentious issues.

Apparently, the US Trade Representative demanded that Thailand provide back-dated protection for seven years: Thai officials suggested four-year protection.

Thai officials in Bangkok, however, argue that the Thai government has no policy to grant retroactive protection for drugs as to do so would run against the domestic legislative affair procedure.

However, the Washington source confirmed that the Thai team cannot make any agreements with the US at this stage.

Uthai's team will not commit itself to any agreements with the US because it did not receive a Cabinet mandate to do so.

Whatever the USTR proposes to Thailand, Uthai will bring the issue back to Cabinet, the source added.

On the copyright issue, the USTR insisted on its demand that Thailand provides a "package of action", including an amendment of laws and sustained suppression.

The USTR also informed Thai officials that it would retaliate against Thailand if it fails to make "satisfactory" moves before July 31.

Cabinet Decision on Cambodia 'Inopportune'

BK0605024993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 May 93 p A6

[Editorial: "Cabinet's decision on Cambodia is inopportune"]

[Text] The Cabinet's decision to postpone the reopening of the Thai-Cambodian border is wise, but applications by logging companies for permission to remove equipment left behind when the frontier closed is inopportune given that the general elections there are only three weeks away.

Chuan's Cabinet has buckled to commercial pressure at an inappropriate time. The government should instead see to it that there is no opportunity for a breach in the current trade embargo before a new administration has been elected in Cambodia with full authority to rule on this sensitive issue.

Any breach, or potential breach, of United Nations sanctions at this time could have far-reaching implications on Thailand's international standing.

The Cabinet has decided to set up a new committee, comprising the ministers of defence, foreign affairs and the interior and the chief of the National Security Council to look at each individual complaint by loggers, who say they left behind machinery worth billions of baht when the Cambodian border was shut.

The committee can give permission, without reference to the Cabinet, for individual companies to retrieve equipment left behind. Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut has reaffirmed that extraction of logs and cut timber will still be prohibited, in compliance with United Nations sanctions.

Obviously, the new committee was intended to appease traders and the coalition partners, especially those linked with the New Aspiration Party and Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut who succeeded in having the Thai-Burmese border reopened last week.

It is well known that the log trade along the Burmese, Cambodian and Laotian borders is a multi-billion baht business. It is also no secret that some of this money is being pumped into Thai politics.

Viewed from this angle, the committee has too much power. Its decision on any individual case is final. This power could be misused. Who can guarantee that when a border checkpoint is reopened only equipment will [be] transferred and not logs? It's inevitable that all companies which used to trade logs with the Khmer Rouge will file similar requests. If the committee agrees to even a single application, it will be in breach of the UN embargo.

Border trade, especially with Cambodia, has an international dimension which the Thai government has frequently overlooked. The UN has imposed sanctions and it is expected that Thailand, as a respected member of the United Nations, should comply without reservations.

As is well known, Thailand was initially reluctant to comply with the UN trade embargo against the Khmer Rouge. Even today, despite the closure of Thai-Cambodian border, some illegal logs still reach Thai soil.

For years the interests of those groups trading with the Khmer Rouge has overruled common sense in Thailand's diplomacy. Backed by powerful military leaders, our politicians (who own most of the logging companies) have consistently closed their eyes to the implications of their self indulgent ties with the Marxist guerrillas. The Chuan government must show its commitment to the Paris peace accords by making sure that the new committee is not allowed to make any foolish decisions.

Khmer Rouge Attacks To Increase Before Elections

BK0505043893 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 May 93 p A6

[Editorial: "Siem Reap attack: A show of strength by Khmer Rouge"]

[Text] The Khmer Rouge attack on the strategic northern Cambodian town of Siem Reap on Monday [3 May] was a highly symbolic show of strength three weeks before the United Nations-sponsored elections. Siem Reap is a town visited by thousands of tourists each year to view the magnificent Angkor Wat, the spiritual and cultural heart of the Cambodian people.

Monday's Khmer Rouge attack on Siem Reap was unfortunate because the town was just beginning to recover after about 20 years without tourists, and this incident is likely to scare people away for some time.

UN observers however point out that the Maoist guerrillas did not have the strength to hold the town but a seizure for a few hours would have been a potent propaganda victory. The Khmer Rouge did take and hold the town's airport for a few hours, looted and torched houses in the town's centre and attacked Siem Reap's main power plant before being driven off by Phnom Penh government troops. Up to 100 tourists and dozens of UN personnel were taken to bunkers during the attack.

The Phnom Penh government said about 17 people died in the attack, including 13 Khmer Rouge guerrillas. The UN has yet to verify that figure but says no United Nations' personnel or foreign nationals were killed.

The Khmer Rouge's message however has been made clear enough. The faction's escalating campaign of violence is to show all Cambodians that it has not been weakened by 20,000 UN peacekeepers, trade bans and the US $2 billion peace process.

The Siem Reap attack is a clear signal to the UN and other Cambodian factions that the Khmer Rouge is aggressively opposed to the May elections, and has prompted the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) to issue a new low-level security alert for all UN personnel.

The Untac security alert comes two days before emergency talks between all factions in Beijing, called by head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk in a bid to avert further bloodshed. The Khmer Rouge will reportedly attend those talks but little progress is expected.

It is without doubt that attacks will increase in the run-up to the polls as the Khmer Rouge lets the UN and all Cambodians know that the faction is a force to be reckoned with despite the fact they have opted to stay out of the elections.

The Khmer Rouge attack on Siem Reap could also serve to illustrate how flawed the 1991 Paris Peace Agreement is. The view among global and regional powers at that time was that the Khmer Rouge had to be made a legitimate party to the agreement to avoid a continuing civil war.

Instead, the guerrillas have embarked on a concerted effort to wreck the peace accords. The sad tragedy is that the ordinary Cambodian who longs to see peace in his country bears the suffering caused by the guerrillas' intransigence.

Son Sann Calls for Executive Powers for Sihanouk

BK0505061093 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 May 93 p 2

[Text] Former Cambodian premier Son Sann yesterday called for executive powers over Cambodia to be transferred "without delay" to head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

"The acts of violence and intimidation, the near general insecurity and the continued presence of foreign forces threaten in its spirit the Paris (peace) Accord itself," Son Sann said in a statement circulated in Bangkok by his Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF).

The prince "constitutes the last resort to save the Paris Accord," he said.

"In order to prevent a new tragedy for the Cambodian people above all giving peace freedom and justice, the executive powers must without delay be handed over to HRH [His Royal Highness] Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk," he said.

"Provided with these state powers, the Chief of State could therefore start the crusade for national reconciliation and the rebuilding of the country," he said.

The statement was circulated after Son Sann engaged in hourlong talks with Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri at the Foreign Minstry.

Speaking to reporters following the talks, Son Sann said he considered Prince Sihanouk "the only man who can realise national reconciliation".

Son Sann today heads for Peking in response to the prince's call for a meeting there of the four factions represented in the Supreme National Council (SNC).

The SNC meeting would be an opportunity for hearing the views of the Khrrler Rouge, Son Sann said.

"They are Cambodian too," he said.

Understanding among the four main factions is vital to national reconciliation, he stressed.

"Without understanding, there will be no national reconciliation and that will make war," he said.

The Khmer Rouge have accepted the prince's invitation. But it remains unclear whether the Phnom Penh faction will attend the meeting in Peking.

The prince is in Peking for medical treatment.

Son Sann said he had asked Thailand and ASEAN to help save the peace process in Cambodia.

An informed source said the talks with Foreign Minister Prasong heard Son Sann express concern for the security situation in Cambodia.

He emphasised his doubts as to whether conditions would be sufficiently safe for elections to be held as scheduled and raised questions about the impartiality of UNTAC, the source said.

The elections are scheduled for May 23-2 .

Squadron Leader [Sqn Ldr] Prasong said that Thailand as a neighbour, sought peace in Cambodia but stressed that only Cambodians could solve their own problems.

Sqn Ldr Prasong tomorrow leaves for a three-day visit to Cambodia during which he will meet leaders of the Phnom Penh faction, including Prime inister Hun Sen and National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim.

But Sqn Ldr Prasong refused to tell reporters whether Son Sann had asked him to raise any issue with them.

Board of Trade Signs Trade Pact With SRV

BK0105045893 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 May 93 p 22

[Text] The Board of Trade of Thailand (BOT) and Vietnam's Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday pledged to step up trade, industrial, economic and technical cooperation between the two organisations.

Despite being among the first batch of foreigners to set foot in Vietnam five years ago following a long closed-door period after the Vietnam War, Thais are ranked only 14th among foreign investors in Vietnam. Bilateral trade volume last year was worth 3,982.1 million baht with the trade surplus on the Vietnamese side.

A 60-member Thai trade mission organised by the Thai Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade this week visited Ho Chi Minh City, Danang and Hanoi.

In Hanoi, the BOT yesterday signed a cooperation agreement with Vietnam's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Vietcochamber) which calls for further strengthening of the links between the two organisations and joint efforts to promote contacts, exchanges and cooperation.

"Both parties agree to take necessary steps to ensure that the joint cooperation agreement works to their mutual benefits," the agreement said.

The Thai trade mission was led by Thawat Yipintsoi, the chairman of YipInTsoi & Jacks Ltd and founder of Thai-Viet INVEXIM, which is a venture capital holding company originally set up to be a consortium of Thai companies to deal with Vietnam.

Mr Thawat, who led a similar mission to Vietnam exactly four years ago, admitted that Thai-Viet INVEXIM had gone through troubled waters.

When the company was formed in November 1989, it was eyeing five investment projects in Vietnam. Today, only one has succeeded and the remainder flopped.

Thai-Viet INVEXIM initially wanted to identify investment projects in Vietnam, then pool capital contributed by 16 shareholders—all of which were Thai companies—to invest in Vietnam in a risk-profit sharing approach.

"It seems that Thai companies can proceed with their individual projects more effectively and quickly (than the Thai-Viet INVEXIM approach)," Mr Thawat admitted.

Many Vietnamese officials in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and several other provinces privately complained to BUSINESS POST about the conspicuous lethargy and lack of commitment among Thais to invest in Vietnam.

One of them noted that Thai companies have recently been overtaken by relative newcomers to the scene, particularly Malaysians and Singaporeans.

At the same time, Mr Thawat and a few other Thai businessmen said Thais had choices of investment destinations other than Vietnam, including provinces in Thailand and southern China.

The five investment schemes Thai-Viet INVEXIM set out to pursue four years ago were a smelting plant for scrap metal in the north of Vietnam; a timber industry investment; developing an office building in Ho Chi Minh City; a hotel in Ho Chi Minh City; and production of drinking water.

The first project fell apart because the Vietnamese could not guarantee a specific volume of scrap metal supply to make the plant profitable. In the second project, approval of a licence for logfelling and export was passed back and forth between three ministries, none of which could make a decision.

The office building in Ho Chi Minh City failed to draw any interest from Thai-Viet INVEXIM shareholders, while the hotel project fell apart because the local authorities could not relocate squatters from the site, after years of negotiations.

The only survivor was the Polar International Drinking Water project, which received a Vietnamese Government licence to operate in Ho Chi Minh City last month. The 16 shareholders of Thai-Viet INVEXIM will take part in this 100 percent-Thai owned operation to be located in Bien Hoa town of Dong Nai Province, 30 kilometres outside Ho Chi Minh City.

Mr Thawat said the Thai-Viet INVEXIM operation needed a strong Vietnamese counterpart, which had been set up in the form of Viet-Thai INVEXIM, to be effective.

But Vietnam was not ready for such an idea, he said. Viet-Thai INVEXIM was founded in September 1991, with seven Vietnamese shareholders, six of which were state enterprises and one a private company.

"The Polar drinking water project was born, finally, and the general manager running the project is the second one now from the day we started negotiations," Mr Thawat said.

Some members of the Thai mission complained about reluctance by the Vietnamese to give information vital to their investment decisions.

Vietcochamber President Doan Du Thanh said Vietnam welcomed any kind of investment from Thais, specifically in areas where Thai expertise is known to be advanced, such as agricultural product processing and consumer goods production.

'Key' Officers: Chuan Has Military's Support

BK0605011993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 May 93 p 3

[Text] Key Army officers yesterday discounted opposition chances of toppling the Government in Parliament during the current session starting today.

"Considering the Government's performance during the past six months, I still give him (Prime Minister Chuan Likphai) credit for administering the country," said a senior army officer who was a former member of Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy's Class 5.

"His strong advantage is his integrity and honesty. For the time being, I doubt the Opposition has any justification to criticise him."

An army intelligence officer who has been closely monitoring political developments shared the same opinion, saying "so far the Government has not committed any grave political mistakes."

The officer said it was understandable that the opposition parties should propose launching a no-confidence motion against the Government as this is the only way it can create the conditions for political change.

"This will not affect the premiership of Khun [Mr.] Chuan. No matter what political circumstances occur, I have a lot of confidence that he will remain prime minister," said the army intelligence officer.

The Class 5 officer who is a close associate of former premier Gen Suchinda Khraprayun said Prime Minister Chuan still commanded a lot of support from the Army, especially from Army Commander Gen Wimon Wongwanit who is also a former Class 5 member.

"His non-interference in military affairs has gained him a lot of recognition from us," said the officer.

The officer gave an assurance that as long as Mr Chuan was in power and administering the country faithfully, it was unlikely that any military officers would dare stage a coup against his Government.

"The Army will not do anything to destabilise the Government. If there is any political change, it will be because of internal conflict among the coalition parties, not from the military," said the Class 5 officer who formerly belonged to the NPKC [National Peacekeeping Council]. He also gave the Premier credit for taking strong legal action against stock manipulators.

The intelligence officer said any change during the three-month-long House meeting would depend on the political situation and whether there was a major political shake-up within the five coalition parties.

"He (Mr Chuan) is a man with democratic principles and any political moves from other coalition parties which run counter to these principles will not be tolerated by the Premier," said the offficer.

Agriculture Official on Burma, Logging

BK0605031393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 May 93 p A6

[Interview held "recently" with Suthep Thuaksuban, deputy minister of agriculture and cooperatives, by Prawit Rotchanaphruk; place, date not given]

[Text] [Prawit] Why do you support the reopening of the Burmese border to Thai logging companies?

[Suthep] Since the ban on logging in Thailand, the country had to depend on outside sources for its domestic timber consumption. It cost Thailand about Bt [Thai baht] 20 billion a year to import timber from Indonesia and Malaysia and the quality is inferior to that of Burmese or Cambodian logs. So when the Burmese government announced a policy to sell their timber not just to Thailand but also to Singapore, Japan and others, we jumped on the opportunity. Buying timber from Burma is beneficial to us because of the geographical proximity. This proximity lowers transportation costs.

Even if the Burmese government does not wish to sell their timber, the warring ethnic groups would still do so.

The Rangoon administration also complains about our inconsistency with regard to ties with Burma. This inconsistency has caused the Burmese government a loss of revenue. We should allow Thai private firms into Burma fast so as to enable them to get concessions. This would ensure that Thailand will get quality wood at good prices.

[Prawit] How would you react to environnental groups who are concerned about the rampant logging in Burma, and point out the fact that the cutting down of trees in that country would also affect Thailand's watershed areas? Also how would your ministry handle claims by human rights groups that Thailand by virtue of trading witb Rangoon, supports a dictatorial regime tbat violates human rights?

[Suthep] Non-government organizations (NGOs) will continue to complain no matter what.

Let me point out that selling timber is the sole right of the Burmese government. The Burmese have their own reasons for doing it and it's their business. If Burma doesn't sell timber to us, they would still sell it to other countries. It has to be remembered that Thailand also needs wood.

[Prawit] What are the details about tbe plan to plant more trees in Thailand by the public?

[Suthep] We plan to make sure that more trees will be planted in the next 20 to 30 years. We plan to invite all sectors of society to plant additional five million rai of trees by the 50th anniversary of the coronation of HM [His Majesty] the King. The ministry will provide saplings of teak, teng, tabaek and other indigenous species of trees while the business sector could plant it and take care of it with their name in the plot as a tribute to HM the King.

Villagers will receive Bt3,000 for growing trees in their own plot under the supervision of the ministry and they could cut it down in 15 to 20 years time for profit.

We [are] also considering planting eucalyptus trees as a cash crop just like beans and cassava. We have to import Bt2 to Bt3 billion of eucalyptus wood every year. Even HM the King told me that we could plant eucalyptus on degraded soil. Those who think eucalyptus destroys the fertility of the soil and outrightly hate it are indeed crazy.

[Prawit] Are there any measures being taken to protect forestry department officials to prevent them from being assassinated like the Ranong provincial forestry chief?

[Suthep] We do not need any new measures. All the laws and regulations are fine but the problem is how to enforce them. I had order [as published] my officials to submit a list of influential people in every province accused of illegal logging or encroachment into national parks. There are many of these people around but we will keep a close watch on them and further the list to the police department. These people must be kept under the close watch of the law.

[Prawit] How are you going to handle the encroachment into mangrove forests in Ranong province?

[Suthep] I will rehabilitate 500 rai of mangrove forest in Ranong and erect a monument for the late Ranong provincial forestry chief. For those areas which have become swamps, we would build a park and try to reform some of the land and give them to the poor. For the part on which buildings and other structures have been constructed, the land would be confiscated.

[Prawit] What is your stance towards the proposed community forest bill by the Phalang Tham party?

[Suthep] People or party who would take care of the forest must be clearly defined. But no one would really love and care for these forest when it's under the protection of community. I used to be a precinct chief and I know very well that it's difficult to ask any community to take care of them. I do not like to follow the fashion.

[Prawit] What measures has your ministry resorted to in solving tbe lingering issue of the Khor Chor Khor land resettlement scheme?

[Suthep] Khor Chor Khor is very problematic. It's also confusing and chaotic. People who have been resettled suffer. The original owners of land who had to forsake their property also suffer. Imagine having only seven rai of land to till under the scheme. This amounts to nothing. Even the area of my house is eight rai.

The government had spent billions to move people out from forest reserves and national parks and some of the land had trees planted already. But we needed to solve the issue. I hope the Land Reform Act will solve it but the difficulties are due to the differences in conditions in different areas.

This administration didn't cause the problem. The burden now is on the Chuan government and we will solve it. I wish it would be done before the planting season arnves, but it's difficult. Cooperation from affected villagers will not come easy.

[Prawit] How ure you going to solve the growing disparities in income between agricultural workers and those in other section of society?

[Suthep] The income of farmers still increases over the years. It's the other sectors that had left farmers behind. The disparities in income between agricultural and other sectors is about seven to eight times. This is something that we have to solve. But we must accept tbat as Thailand becomes a newly-industrialized country (NIC), workers in the agricultural sector will have to move elsewhere, for instance to the industrial sector, service sector and so on.

Each year we must be prepared for 200,000 to 300,000 agricultural workers to abandon their jobs in the agricultural sector and move elsewhere to other sectors.

The government must provide systematic measures for the transfer of labour from the agricultural sector to other sectors. We also have to provide training so that they could-become skilled labourers. The Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Education must study demands of the market economy clearly.

But the problem is that previous governments weren't systematic and they rarely thought on a long term perspective.

Head of King's Bodyguard Discharged From Army

BK3004065993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit yesterday confirmed that a former Thai military attache to Malaysia, Maj Gen Wira Wanasuk, had been discharged from Army service last month.

He did not give the reasons for the discharge.

Maj Gen Wira graduated from Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy Class 14 whose class members included 1st Division Commander Maj Gen Somphop Attanan.

The officer was heading His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon's Royal Security Guard Command before his discharge on March 14.

The discharge order countersigned by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai was published in the Royal Gazette on April 1. No reason was given for the dismissal.

The Royal Security Guard Command comes under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister's Office.

Maj Gen Wira was a commander of the 4th Army Battalion of the 5th Regiment and deputy regiment commander in the Fourth Army before being made military attache to Malaysia in the mid-1980s.

Vietnam

Ministry Calls for Action Against Khmer Rouge

BK0505153293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1205 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Hanoi, May 5 (AFP)—Vietnam called Wednesday for "effective measures" against the Khmer Rouge following a new surge of violence in neighboring Cambodia.

"These new provocative activities of the Khmer Rouge aggravate the situation in Cambodia, causing deep concern," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"The countries that signed the Paris accords, [word indistinct], UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and the international community should condemn them vigorously and take effective measures to halt the activities of the Khmer Rouge, who are trying to sabotage the Paris accords and disrupt the Cambodian peace process."

Khmer Rouge guerrillas Monday attacked the Cambodian city of Siem Riep, near Angkor Wat, after the faction called on its radio for all-out "resistance" against the Phnom Penh government.

On Tuesday, a Japanese policeman serving with the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was killed and two others injured by gunmen suspected of being Khmer Rouge.

Vietnam is a signatory to the Paris accords, but the spokesman declined to say whether Vietnam would consider sending its troops back into Cambodia if asked by the Phnom Penh government, which it installed in 1979 and backed militarily for a decade.

Diplomats here rule out a new Vietnamese intervention, pointing out that Hanoi is just emerging from years of isolation brought on by its occupation of Cambodia.

Spokeswoman on Cambodia, U.S. Delay in Talks

BK0605111393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] A spokeswoman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has urged the signatories of the Paris agreement on Cambodia, the UN and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], and the international community, to strongly condemn and take necessary measures to check the Khmer Rouge's provocative acts. This will ensure the peace process in Cambodia.

At a press conference in Hanoi on Thursday, Ms. Phan Chi Thanh said: Recent attacks by the Khmer Rouge into Siem Reap town once again shows that the Khmer Rouge was trying to destabilize the situation in Cambodia, sabotage the Paris Agreement, wage the civil war, and plot to regain power in Cambodia. She added that Vietnam holds that the general elections in Cambodia should be organized as scheduled despite all the difficulties caused by the Khmer Rouge.

At the same press conference, Ms. Thanh said: It was regrettable that the U.S. Government has proposed a delay of the discussion on the restoration of relations between Vietnam and IMF in Washington on 28 April. The American delay does not respond to the wishes of members of the organization, and it is at variance with foreign and American business interests. Vietnam highly appreciates and thanks those countries which advocated resumption of loan by the IMF to Vietnam.

Former U.S. Munitions Depot Explodes in Danang

BK0605045193 Hong Kong AFP in English 0445 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] HANOI, May 6 (AFP)—A former U.S. military munitions dump exploded Sunday near the central city of Danang, injuring at least 10 soldiers and one civilian and damaging houses for two kilometers (more than one mile) around, provincial officials said Wednesday.

Westerners who were traveling in the area said a series of powerful blasts rattled windows as far away as Hoi An, nearly 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the Nghi An depot on the southern edge of Danang.

Quang Nam-Danang province officials reached by telephone said the explosions were triggered when the hot sun ignited rusting phosphorous canisters, but added that the army was investigating.

The explosions came two days after the 18th anniversary of the communist victory in South Vietnam, and one month after authorities said they had foiled a bombing campaign by anti-government forces in Ho Chi Minh City.

Article Recalls Downing of U.S. Aircraft

BK0605071593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Article by Hung Tan: "We Will Remember Forever a Meeting With Uncle Ho"]

[Excerpts] In early May 1965, we, members of the 234th Air Defense Regiment, were ordered to move from our battleground near the Ham Rong Bridge area in Thanh Hoa to defend the capital city of Hanoi at a time when the U.S. aggressors were escalating their air war of destruction against the north.

Thanks to their prior knowledge of the enemy's planned attack against Hanoi, the higher echelons had organized an air defense network to intercept them. We, members of the First Company, set up our battleground at the Nghia Dung storage area. Our main objective was to defend the Yen Phu Power Plant. On the afternoon of 15 May 1965, we were informed of a visit by a group of high-ranking cadres. Our wild guess was that the Air Defense Command would visit our unit to commend everyone for their recent feats-of-arms at the Ham Rong Bridge area. On the evening of 18 May, we, however, were ordered to move to defend Bach Mai Airport. Early on the morning of 19 May, as we just finished setting up our battleground, a convoy was moving in our direction. As the convoy stopped, Uncle Ho got out of the third car. We all rushed toward him and happily shouted: Uncle Ho! Uncle Ho! [passage omitted]

Uncle Ho's instructions to our unit on that day were then quickly translated into an enthusiastic emulation movement. Only eight days after Uncle Ho's visit, we moved to Ha Tay to defend a missile site there. With a nine-round shot, our company downed an F-101 jetfighter on the spot.

Uncle Ho's instructions always served as a source of encouragement for all of us during that period of heroic national struggle. On 19 May 1967, as we marked Uncle Ho's birthday, we downed an A-3J aircraft right on Le Truc Street, Hanoi, capturing the pilots. That was our birthday gift to Uncle Ho. Upon learning of our great feats-of-arms and by living up to his promise, Uncle Ho visited our regiment in the very afternoon of that day. [passage omitted]

Paper Denounces Western Human Rights Campaign

BK0605080393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 3 May 93

[From the Press Review]

[Text] QUAN DOI NHAN DAN today carries an article dealing with democracy and human rights.

The author of this article begins by saying that democracy and human rights are subjects that western radios' Vietnamese language programs have exploited to provoke us. Democracy and human rights are also the main contents of the many documents that have been smuggled into our country from abroad with the aim of creating instability.

After rejecting distortions advanced by reactionary forces on the question of democracy and human rights, the author said: What we need from a democracy is to rebuild a mastery life—which we have regained after many years of fighting—so as to make the people prosperous and the country strong and to build a civilized society without being pressured, manipulated, or sabotaged by anyone. It is within our freedom of choice to successfully rebuild the society in which we are living. We hold high respect for our leaders and our vanguard party and this is solemnly inscribed in our constitution. We will continue to be closely united to build this party up to the level required of it by its historic mandate.

Vo Van Kiet Article on Tasks of Youths

BK0505135393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 29 Apr 93

["Article" by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet on the tasks of Vietnamese youths in the new stage entitled: "Some Sentiments Towards the Younger Generation;" written on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the liberation of South Vietnam—name of publication not given]

[Text] Since 30 April 1975 to the present, 18 years have elapsed. It is a period long enough for a new generation to be born and grow into their youth. This is the fifth generation, counting from the first one—the generation who took up the revolutionary task after our party came into being—to the ensuing generations who fought against French colonialism and U.S. imperialism and who engaged in national reconstruction.

Eighteen years ago, when the present youths were born, the country was reunified and began enjoying an era of independence, freedom, and unification. This is the most significant moment in our national history. We were free from foreign domination after decades living under their yoke, thus able to wipe out our national shame. We could not describe in full all the sacrifices and contributions made by millions of people in various generations for this lofty goal.

At present, 18 years after the total liberation of Vietnam, we are striving to fight against hunger and poverty to make the people prosperous and the nation powerful.

Recently, a foreign reporter asked me a fantastic question about my wishes for Vietnam. I answered him that we have regained our national independence and wiped out our national shame; therefore, we have no reason to tolerate poverty and hunger any longer. As a result, my wishes, as well as those of all Vietnamese, are to see our people prosperous, our country powerful, and our society advanced. It is necessary to say that the present 18-year old generation is a group who is working toward achieving its great ambition to fulfill this lofty goal for our society. Our youths must strive to choose a correct path for their future, be it a profession or a position in society. These young men and women who have great vitality and who are reaching an important juncture in their lives cannot live without a plan for their future or an aim for tomorrow. They must make great efforts to build their future. The good future of each individual will contribute to leading the country to advance further. We should not forget this and should remind ourselves that we have done and will continue to do our best to overcome poverty and hunger and to prevent the country from setbacks. Youths of this new generation must remember that they are the ones who will take up these heavy tasks and will carry out this mission in the 21st century.

It can be said that our youths at present are not satisfied yet with reality in various domains in our country. They are demanding changes in a more decisive, concrete, and effective manner to quickly accelerate national development programs. Reading various newspapers, especially youth magazines, I understand their feelings and legitimate anxieties. I would like to stress here that in implementing the party renovative lines we have been and are striving to improve the socioeconomic situation to ensure stabilization and further development. Reality shows that our path is correct and that our initial achievements are the firm bases for our nation's further advancement. Our government will not tolerate the current social vices which have affected our people's spiritual lives and social morals. Corruption, wastefulness, and misuse of the state budget are sabotage activities that society must condemn and suppress. Moreover, other social vices and a debauched lifestyle have also adversely affected the healthy lives of our youths at this important juncture of their lives.

Our government has been and is formulating various positive measures to step by step alienate and stop these social vices. Naturally, this task requires close coordination and cooperation between various state agencies, the public, and our youths, especially their positive acts.

The party Central Committee's fourth plenum recently issued some important resolutions on youths and on education and training. This is to make our country's youths ready to devote their energy, talent, and wisdom to the cause of national construction. The government has also issued two documents of great significance. They are: A document on structural policies aimed at developing the youth force toward implementing socioeconomic tasks; and another document on the organizational and operating procedures of the Assault Youth Force in the new situation.

Measures have been taken to solve employment for youths through providing funds to various business and production development projects initiated by youths in urban and rural areas and through many projects to exploit 10 million hectares of fallow land, bare hills, and offshore islands.

I have on several occasions discussed these issues. Here I would like to repeat what I have said: Socioeconomic projects are places where our youths can make their contributions, steel themselves, and mature while the market economy provides a favorable environment for youths to develop their talents and demonstrate their competence and creativity.

It can be said that our country is still faced with many challenges on its course of development. Realities show that we have encountered not inconsiderable difficulties and complexities and that we have displayed weaknesses and sluggishness in various areas of work while we are shifting to a market-oriented economy. But after an overview of the situation in 1993, we have high hopes for a new socioeconomic situation and a new position with more potential and opportunities favorable for national development while we are at the threshold of the 21st century in the advance toward building a prosperous and beautiful socialist country as the practical conditions in Vietnam permit.

The question now is—and it is also the duty of all of us—how to promptly seize these opportunities without missing them. It also has become a tradition that every time we are faced with difficulties and trials, our people, with youths playing the role of a strike force, are united, millions as one, trying to overcome all difficulties. At present, our difficulties are not inconsiderable. We do not balk at these difficulties. Instead, we are ready to confront them with a strong confidence in the tradition of our nation.

The present-day generation of youths were born and are growing up during our peaceful national reconstruction. Now while these youths are entering into life, the country embarks on a new stage of development toward achieving ever-higher objectives and requirements. We are now enjoying new advantages. Especially, our new mechanism is taking shape more visibly. It is none other than the present-day generation of youths who will shoulder the national development task during the early decades of the 21st Century. It is precisely because of this that right now our youths should prepare for themselves those qualities they need and map out for themselves their future goals.

Whether or not you are still in high school or college, or you have left school for production and business work, I think that you should strive to study harder and harder. We are trying to gradually rearrange various schools and institutions, strengthen their material bases, and particularly renovate the substance and methods of education in a way suitable to the new mechanism. We need to promptly acquire those new scientific findings of the global treasure of knowledge and those new technologies badly needed for national development.

Only with good education, dynamism, and creativity can we have conditions to amass wealth. We should amass wealth not only for ourselves and our families but also for our fatherland. The wealth I am talking about does not simply refer to material wealth, but it also concerns spiritual and cultural wealth and wealth in terms of national identity. These things should not be overlooked in this contemporary world.

Youths in our country are regarded by friends the world over as intelligent, industious, and capable of quickly acquiring scientific and technical know-how and new technologies. I think that this is a correct assessment and a comparative advantage that we need to develop.

How can our youths feel complacent with the praise without proving themselves to deserve it through realistic actions? How can our youths resign themselves to leaving our country in its eternal poverty?

Making a long story short, endowed with its great latent potential, our country is enjoying new advantages and opportunities with which to make our dream—namely the prosperity of the country and a plentiful and happy life for the Vietnamese people—come true.

The future of youths is inseparable from that of the country. I always believe that Vietnamese youths are rich in energy and creativity and are fully capable of taking up the national construction mission. Our youths should not just sit where they are, waiting for the arrival of a brighter future. Instead, they should work wholeheartedly for their future, trying to narrow the gap of development between our country and other neighboring countries in the region. This is the motive for me to avail myself of the anniversary celebration of this important historic event to express my heartfelt feelings to all those youths who are members of the fifth generation

Vo Van Kiet Receives Singapore Economic Delegation

BK0505145793 Hanoi VNA in English 1406 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 5—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here this afternoon Singapore Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Lim Boon Heng who is heading a 20-member delegation of senior officials and businessmen on a five-day visit to Vietnam.

Minister Lim Boon Heng expressed his joy at the establishment of the Vietnam-Singapore Commission for Cooperation (VSCC) and the ground-breaking for the construction of an international exchange centre of Singapore in Hanoi. He said these are significant events testifying to the importance attached by the Vietnamese and Singaporean Governments to the development of bilateral cooperation. Mr. Lim praised the rapid development of the relations between the two countries since Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's visit to Singapore in late 1991 and Mr. Lee Kuan Yew's visit to Vietnam in mid-1992. He said Singapore is most interested in cooperating with Vietnam in such domains: steel, construction materials, textile, garments, leather shoes and financial and accountancy services. He said Vietnam's success in its renovation policy is a solid base for encouraging Singaporean investments in Vietnam.

For his part, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet welcomed the visit of the economic delegation of the Singaporean Government and the establishment of the VSCC as a new step in the development of the Vietnam-Singapore relations based on mutual understanding and trust. Premier Kiet expressed his strong belief that the strong development of the bilateral ties meets the two peoples' aspiration and serves the interests of peace, friendship, cooperation and development in the region.

Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai Visits Sweden

BK0605055593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 1 May 93

[Text] Our country's deputy foreign minister, Le Mai, paid a working visit to Sweden from 27-30 April. On 28 April, Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai exchanged views with his Swedish counterpart on the situation in each country, the relations between the two countries, and international and regional issues of common concern. The two sides reached great consensus on the issues under discussion.

While in Sweden, Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai also met with Mr. (Junbren), deputy director general of the Swedish International Development Aid agency, the directors of the Political Department and Bilateral Aid Department, and other high-ranking Swedish Foreign Ministry officials.

Presidential Order Promulgates Four New Laws

BK0605031793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The Office of the President of the State convened a news conference in Hanoi this morning to make public a presidential order promulgating the four laws adopted by the Standing Committee of the Ninth National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. They include:

1. The law on the organization of military courts which consists of five chapters and 40 articles;
2. The law on the organization of military organs of control which consists of four chapters and 37 articles;
3. The law on the execution of civil court orders which consists of seven chapters and 50 articles; and
4. The law on Vietnam's recognition and execution of civil court decisions reached by foreign tribunals which consists of four chapters and 26 articles.

The above-mentioned laws have all been amended or supplemented based on the contents of the various legal documents adopted in the past.

National Assembly Permanent Committee Meets

BK2304150593 Hanoi VNA in English 1438 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 23—The Permanent Committee of the National Assembly met here from April 9-14 and April 17-22 under the conduct of its Chairman Nong Duc Manh.

The committee discussed and adopted ordinances on the Organisation of the Military Court, the Military Office of Control. It also adopted an ordinance on the Execution of Civil Sentences and an ordinance on the Recognition and Execution in Vietnam of Foreign Courts' Civil Decisions and Sentences.

The committee appreciated the results of a friendship visit of a Vietnamese Assembly delegation led by Chairman Nong Duc Manh to the Philippines from March 29-31, 1993. It said that the visit constituted a new development in the relations between the two peoples and national assemblies, promoting their mutual understanding, sympathy and coopertion, thus contributing to the defence of peace, stability and development in the region .

Delegation Attends New York Economic Seminar

BK2304063593 Hanoi VNA in English 0547 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 23—A Vietnam economic seminar was held in New York on April 20 under the theme "'Vietnam Today' economic policies and prospect of trade and investment". It was attended by a delegation of the Vietnam-US Friendship Society led by Mr. Phan Hien, president of the society and former minister of justice, who is now on a visit to the United States.

The seminar drew more than 200 businessmen and executives of American and Canadian companies, scholars and representatives of US non-governmental organizations.

Members of the Vietnamese delegation briefed the seminar about Vietnam's economic development in the renovation and the possibilities of US-Vietnam economic cooperation in the coming time as well as Vietnam's policies on investment, joint venture banking, taxation and labour.

American businessmen made inquiries about Vietnam's laws and regulations on investment and trading with foreign countries, on labour, and on land tax and utilization.

Many delegates expressed their joy at the latest developments on the Vietnamese Government's cooperation with the US Government to settle the MIA issue. They also wished for an early lifting of the US trade embargo, thus opening an economic cooperation beneficial to both peoples.

The seminar was sponsored by the US Indochina Reconciliation Organisation, the US-Vietnam commerce organization and the trade society.

Commission Established With Singapore

BK0505144193 Hanoi VNA in English 1401 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 5—A memorandum of understanding between Vietnam and Singapore was signed here today on the establishment of the Vietnam-Singapore Commission for Cooperation.

Signatories were Dau Ngoc Xuan, minister, chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, and Phillip Yeo, chairman of Singapore's Economic Development Board. The commission will be co-chaired by Philip Yeo and Dau Ngoc Xuan.

Vice Premier Phan Van Khai and senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Mr. Lim Boon Heng witnessed the signing.

Vice President Receives DPRK Envoy's Credentials

BK0605031993 Hanoi VNA in French 1515 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Hanoi, VNA 4 May—DPRK Ambassador Han Min-chol presented his credentials to SRV Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh today.

After the ceremony, Nguyen Thi Binh had a cordial talk with her guest.

Extradition Laws in W. Samoa, Tonga Under Review

BK0605074293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The South Pacific Law and Order Committee has begun reviewing extradition laws in Western Samoa and Tonga. The committee set up by the Pacific islands law officers meeting and the Forum [South Pacific Forum] secretariat is trying to bring the extradition laws of the region in line with the laws of other commonwealth countries. These include getting rid of the list of offenses which don't cover new offenses like money laundering. The moves to introduce new laws into the region stem from the South Pacific Forum declaration on law enforcement cooperation adopted at last year's meeting in Honiara.

Australia

Continued Military Cooperation With U.S. Favored

BK0605064593 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 13 Apr 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Nurrungar Still Has Purpose"]

[Text] The strategic importance of the joint United States-Australian defence facilities in this country did not end with the Cold War. Their role and purpose, however, in the post-Cold War era should, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Evans, conceded on the weekend, be "clearly articulated". A reiteration of the role and purpose of the installations would do much to defuse the controversy stirred by the latest demonstrations at Nurrungar, South Australia. It would also go a long way towards proving the demonstrators, not the defence facilities, have been left behind by events.

Nurrungar, built more than 20 years ago, is a strategically important satellite-fed intelligence base. It has been, and remains, one of the West's most important early warning systems. In the Cold War it was said to be capable of detecting a missile launch in the Soviet Union within 90 seconds of blast-off, which virtually eliminated any first-strike advantage for the Soviets and thus contributed to the policy of deterrence. That same capability was successfully put to use during the 1991 Gulf War, when the base was reportedly able to detect the launch of Iraqi Scud missiles, enabling their interdiction over Israel by U.S. Patriot missiles. The Nurrungar facility clearly proved its value on that occasion in being instrumental in preventing the loss of innocent civilian life.

The earliest demonstrations by the so-called peace movement against Nurrungar, Pine Gap and other U.S.-Australian defence stations on Australian soil protested against their assumed role in driving the arms race; in making nuclear war more, not less, likely; and in making Australia a nuclear target. Yet as those assumptions have failed to materialise, the reasons for demonstrating against the facilities have changed. When the last big demonstration at Nurrungar occurred in late 1989, it degenerated into a dispute between the Federal Labor Government and some of its left-wing members over why unarmed troops were assigned to help keep protesters out of the base. At this weekend's demonstrations the troops' presence was hardly noticed as an array of protesters sought to draw attention to individual causes from Aboriginal land rights to republicanism.

Australian Democrat Senator Sid Spindler, who was arrested during the recent demonstrations, claims it is "preposterous" to allow foreign bases when Australia is considering embracing a republic as an assertion of its independence and national identity. Such comments are totally without foundation, seeking as they do to enjoin two totally separate issues. The facilities, as Senator Evans states, have a key role in verifying international arms control agreements—a role which is surely in the best interests of both this nation and the world.

Regionally, there are strong reasons for urging the US to maintain an effective military presence, and Senator Spindler is wrong to infer that a republican Australia should be an isolationist one. The Australia-US alliance continues to play an important role in contributing to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific. The facilities at Nurrungar and Pine Gap are one product of that alliance, which has served both nations and the region well. These demonstrations of the past few days have been an expensive waste of resources by a group of protesters living in the past.

Paper Lists Trade Barriers To Be Lifted in APEC

BK0605074893 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Australia has drawn up a list of hidden trade barriers in Asia-Pacific area. A list compiled by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is part of the liberalization work of the Asia Pacific Economic Group [APEC]. Australia has targeted administrative barriers to trade access not discussed in the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations. Among Japanese barriers lifted are a number of import restrictions on food and in service areas such as telecommunications and aviation. The list follows an agreement among the 15 APEC economies that they would each lift the five most important nontariff barriers they faced in other APEC countries.

ASIO Chief: Foreign Espionage 'Alive and Kicking'

BK0605075693 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 22 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] Foreign espionage in Australia was "alive and kicking" and could intensify as the country became a more active international player in the 1990s, ASIO's [Australian Security Intelligence Organization] director general, Mr David Sadleir, warned yesterday.

In a rare public appearance at the National Press Club in Canberra, Mr Sadleir said contrary to the expectations of some the end of the Cold War had not diminished foreign espionage in Australia or the risk of politically motivated terrorism.

He warned Australia could not escape entirely the turbulence generated by post-Cold War conflicts such as those in Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union.

Australia, nowadays less remote than ever, physically and emotionally, from the rest of the world cannot expect entirely to escape that volatility, especially in an era when nationalism, racism and other manifestations of identity are no longer constrained by the once overarching confrontation between Western societies and Soviet systems," Mr Sadleir said.

"A multiplication of conflicts abroad also multiplies potential targets in Australia."

A consequence of the end of the Cold War was that key terrorist groups who had lost their traditional sponsorship by former eastern bloc states were becoming involved in the Asia-Pacific region.

"We have seen Saudi diplomats assassinated in Bangkok, a Middle East terrorist group establish a beachhead in India and Pakistan," he said.

"Conditions in the Asia-Pacific region are attractive to the itinerant terrorist; ready transport, excellent communications, big cities (always a help in urban operations) and an abundance of targets.

"At best, the region can expect no less terrorism and it seems to me there is a credible prospect of more."

Australia still had important secrets and its desire to become a more active international player could make these secrets increasingly sought after.

"I don't want to exaggerate or belabour these matters, except to stress that espionage directed against Australian interests is alive and kicking on our soil and ASIO continues to work against it as it is obliged to do," he said.

Much of ASIO's resources were now spent on preempting terrorism. But the potential dangers from one form of terrorism, the "racist Right" had fallen during the past-12 months due to the arrest of most of the leaders of Australian neo-Nazi groups.

"Generally these groups are liable to remain small and politically isolated, though we shall need to keep a close eye on them so long as high unemployment offers recruits from among angry and alienated youth and our universally based immigration policy provides a grindstone for prejudice." Mr Sadleir said.

In July last year the Prime Minister, Mr Keating, cut funding for ASIO an estimated $50 million following a review of intelligence agencies.

Keating Announces Labor Reform Plan

BK0605074993 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 22 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] The Prime Minister, Mr Keating, yesterday foreshadowed a historic deregulation of the labour market, stripping the Industrial Relations Commission of its control over the wages system, in a new ALP [Australian Labor Party] blueprint for the 1990s.

Mr Keating has effectively terminated the era of centralised wage-fixing. He wants a comprehensive new system where workplace deals on wages and conditions virtually replace the award system.

Describing the changes as one of the greatest reforms the Government could undertake, Mr Keating said legislation would be introduced in the Budget session of Parliament to "renovate the legal and institutional structure of Australian industrial relations."

The Prime Minister's speech to the Institute of Company Directors in Melbourne—his first major public address since Labor's election victory—outlined what he described as "an Australian social democratic agenda".

The address, in effect a blueprint for the Keating prime ministership and an insight into Labor's economic agenda for the 1990s, commits the Government to an open, competitive economy, higher productivity and more microeconomic reform.

In significant policy commitments, Mr Keating reaffirmed Labor's support for a "sensible" winding back of tariffs, advocated more structural change, pledged a policy to boost national savings during the decade and defined his new industry policy.

He scotched what he said was "some speculation" that the Government was going to adopt a more interventionist approach to industry, warning that Labor would not prop up industries which could only survive in a protected domestic market.

His program is designed to create the climate for a sustained investment surge. The Prime Minister acknowedged that unemployment would remain high for the next few years, describing the 1 million unemployed as a result of the recession and the shortcomings of the 1980s.

Significantly, he also acknowledged that the number of long-term unemployed—now standing at 300,000—would continue to grow, but said the Government did not see the problem as an inevitable fact of life in the new economic order.

Mr Keating nominated increased national savings as a central goal for the 1990s, citing the superannuation guarantee charge and the commitment to bring down the deficit as the key factors driving the strategy. He also urged business to lift its investment in capital, arguing the conditions—low inflation, good profits and industrial peace—were now right.

Mr Keating told the business leaders he had never believed media reports during the election campaign that the business establishment was disaffected with Labor. But he stressed to the influential gathering that the push for economic reform had to be moderated by a concern for the disadvantaged.

He said the March 13 victory was a mandate for strong economic policy married to programs which produced not only social justice, but social cohesion and strength. "In no way should that put the Government and business at odds," Mr Keating said.

"The success of economic policy depends on the success of business. The opportunities will have to be seized by business... I am saying that we have mutual interests and mutual responsibilities in the economy and society.

"I am saying that we should work together for economic and social ends."

In a pointed reference to the widespread program of redundancies in both the public and private sector, Mr Keating said both business and governments had to consider the human and social consequences of the drive for efficiency.

The nation had to "keep its head and heart together", but he reassured the business gathering: "The opportunities are there, we want to get on with, and keep the pace of reform going."

The speech was seen as part of the Government's strategy to rekindle strong links with the business community and undercut the federal Coalition on the crucial issue of industrial relations reform.

The Coalition's spokesman on industrial relations, Mr John Howard, welcomed Mr Keating's conversion to a more flexibile industrial relations system. "Yesterday's poison is today's panacea," he said.

The proposed industrial reforms—the most sweeping ever contemplated by a federal government—were immediately welcomed by the business community.

Under the model system outlined by Mr Keating, workers would have access to compulsory arbitration through the IRC [Industrial Relations Commission] only when they wanted a pay rise through the safety-net system.

In the most significant change, he flagged a dramatic reduction in the power and influence of the tribunal. The commission would have a role helping negotiations on enterprise deals, maintaining the "safety net", but rarely using the power of compulsory arbitration.

Mr Keating said that as the nation changed to a system of enterprise bargaining, the laws and institutions would have to be modified to suit it.

"For example, we have laws which give the Industrial Relations Commission a role and powers that are not well suited to the system we are trying to create," he said.

"In other words, the commission is still sitting there with an Act and powers which were designed for the old system of industrial relations, the adversarial system... In fact, we are moving to a much more flexibile, enterprise-oriented system which will require changes to the Act of that commission, and changes in the way in which it works.

"My own view is that the Government should provide the direction and leadership necessary to ensure that this happens, and that we really take this opportunity to drive our industrial relations system forward into real reform at a pace which is commensurate with the needs of the country..."

Mr Keating also foreshadowed the Government would review the system of sanctions against unlawful industrial action.

He acknowledged there was a "lack of credible means" of enforcing agreements—a reference to the cumbersome and ineffective system of so-called "bans clauses".

"Where agreements or other awards apply, there should be clear, substantial and easily enforceable penalties for breaches," Mr Keating said.

This will mean the Government will have to examine union calls for protection from secondary boycott laws and common-law action. The ACTU [Australian Council of Trade Unions] will demand the trade-off if penalties are to be increased.

Mr Keating also set an objective of "sufficient harmony" between State and federal systems so they all headed in the same direction using the same general rules.

He dropped a reference in his prepared speech to the legislative package including minimum conditions for all workers, but this will be high on the agenda, forming part of the national safety net. He also called for an acceleration of enterprise bargains and not those which were simply "add-ons" to awards.

The Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr Brereton, will now begin extensive consultations. Mr Keating said the aim would be to come up with the "best solutions".

The broader economic aspects of Mr Keating's address effectively set the agenda for Labor in its fifth term and beyond.

New Airline To Fly To China

BK0405062893 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Green and gold will be the colors of Australia's new overseas airline, Australia Air International. The country has been given a provisional go-ahead for a weekly service to China from Sydney and Melbourne.

Chief executive, Colin Hendrix, says its expected flights will begin in late September with a 747 jumbo aircraft.

Fiji

Reform of 'Controversial' Labour Laws Discussed

BK2804143093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0841 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Suva, April 28 (AFP)—Fijian Finance Minister Paul Manueli told parliament here Wednesday that controversial labour reform laws introduced in 1990 would be changed.

The laws, introduced by the interim government to restrict the powers of trade unions, effectively outlaw strikes.

"The government will continue to monitor public comment on the labour reform laws," Manueli said in response to criticism by opposition members of the labour reforms.

Labour Minister Militoni Leweniqila told AFP that the government would consider changing the laws or scrapping them altogether because they contravened International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions.

"We are certainly going to take a good look at the labour reforms later this year," he said.

Opposition Labour Party leader and trade unionist Mahendra Chaudhary criticised the government in parliament on Tuesday for failing to rescind the reforms.

He claimed that their contravention of ILO conventions was the reason the government was not sending a delegation to the ILO's annual conference in Geneva this year.

"The government stands indicted by the ILO committee report on labour reforms and that is why it cannot send a team to the conference," Chaudhary told parliament.

"They do not want to be embarrassed at the conference because questions will be asked (about the labour reforms), which the government will not be in a position to answer," he added.

New Zealand

Journalists 'Strongly' Protest Mamaloni's News Ban

BK2604064293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] New Zealand journalists have protested strongly over a ban imposed on the Solomon Islands state radio, the SIBC, preventing it from broadcasting stories on the Bougainville issue. The ban was imposed last week by the prime minister, Solomon Mamaloni. In a letter to Mr. Mamaloni, the New Zealand Journalists and Graphic Process Union said it protested against the restrictions in the strongest terms.

The Union president, (Brent Edwards), said Mr. Mamaloni's decision had ominous implications for journalists throughout the Pacific and the people it served.

Unformed Party May Be Key Factor in Polls

BK0505100893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0925 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Wellington, May 5 (AFP)—A political party that does not yet exist but may be formed before New Zealand's elections in six months could make a decisive difference to the outcome, according to an opinion poll released Wednesday.

The Television New Zealand (TVNZ) poll showed that any party led by rebel government MP Winston Peters would command enough support to challenge the opposition Labour Party, which led the poll.

Peters, who has not yet said whether he will form a party, was recently re-elected in a by-election after the ruling National Party refused to endorse his candidature.

The poll showed that, of those with an opinion, 31 percent would support a Peters-led party to 34 percent for Labour and 22 for National. The Alliance Party, a loose grouping of green and left of centre parties would take 11 percent.

The poll registered 18 percent of respondents as don't knows/no opinion.

TVNZ found in a separate question that without a Peters party, support for National was stable at 29 percent, Labour dropped three points to 45 percent and the Alliance was up 2 points to 21 percent.

In the preferred prime minister stakes, Peters was stable on 24 percent, Labour leader Mike Moore was up three points to 21 percent and incumbent Jim Bolger was up two points to nine percent.

China Biggest Wool Purchaser; Nepal Second

BK0505100493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Wellington, May 5 (AFP)—Nepal has become the second biggest buyer of New Zealand wool, taking nine percent of the country's clip, the New Zealand Wool Board said Wednesday.

Board promotion and research manager Roger Buchanan said in a statement China, taking 23 percent of the clip in the first nine months of the current season, remained the biggest buyer.

He said Nepalese buyers were making handknotted carpets from the wool imports.

However New Zealand's overall wool fibre exports to all countries had declined. The volume had slipped by 36,510 tonnes, from a total of 171,908 tonnes for the same period last year, a slide of 21 percent. The value had declined by 17 percent from 826 million N.Z. dollars (447 million U.S. dollars) to 686 million dollars (371 million dollars).

Buchanan attributed the decrease in volume to a smaller wool clip due to poor weather here, as well as to smaller sales.

The old Soviet Union used to consistently buy at least 20,000 tonnes a year of wool, but in the current season the CIS countries have taken only 1,413 tonnes, less than one percent of the clip.

Papua New Guinea

Moves To Join Space Race Earn 'Mixed Reactions'

BK0505093993 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] There has been mixed reactions to moves by Papua New Guinea [PNG] to enter the space race. The PNG Government has given the preferred developer for Australia's Cape York project approval to conduct a feasibility study into setting a space base on an island near the equator. Katherine Mackay reports.

[Begin recording] [Mackay] Space Transportation Systems boss (Michael Hearns) says more than 50 specialists are being mobilized in Brisbane to start the feasibility study for the PNG project. However, he is refusing to elaborate on the details. The Queensland opposition says the Goss government will have to take the blame if the state loses the proposed Cape York space base to PNG. Opposition leader (Rob Bobbin) says although taxpayers money should not be used, the government could have done more to attract international investors, including offering tax breaks.

[(Bobbin)] It would be a great tragedy for northern Australia and a great tragedy for Australia if this incredibly important project is lost for all time through apathy and through indifference of the state government in Queensland.

[Mackay] However, the director of the Australian space office, Dr. Bruce Middleton, says Australia has nothing to be concerned about just yet.

[Middleton] I personally believe that there is a business case for a commercial launch site and I believe that Australia has a better chance than anyone else of achieving that. And the fact that Australia has not yet been able to achieve it says it's a tough nut to crack. [end recording]

Solomon Islands

Businessman Admits Importing Singaporean Arms

BK2304074493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] A Solomon Islands businessman is reported to have confirmed that he imported arms from Singapore for the Solomon Islands Government. The Pacific news service, PACNEWS, says the businessman, Mr. (Wai Sato), admitted importing the arms for the Solomon Islands Police Force following a cabinet decision.

An earlier report, quoting the police commissioner, Fred Soaki, as confirming the arms order, led to a government crackdown against the state-owned broadcasting corporation, the SIBC [Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation].

The prime minister, Solomon Mamaloni, was said to have personally ordered the SIBC to withdraw the report of the arms purchase. He also imposed a ban on the broadcast of all stories or programs with any mention of the secessionist Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville, which borders Solomon Islands.

Police To Talk With PNG on Communication Links

BK0605072093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Commanders of the Solomon Islands' police field force and the Papua New Guinea [PNG] defense force are to meet on (Turunga) island, inside PNG side of the common border to discuss the reestablishment of communications between the two forces.

Commander of the Solomon Islands' police field force, John (Harmo), says his meeting with Commander Andrew (Turongata) follows an agreement by officials from both countries during the border talks last week. Mr. (Harmo) says that communication between the two forces broke down following several cross border raids by the PNG defense forces. He said that both commanders felt that communication should be reestablished as this was important for the proper management of the common border. Mr. (Harmo) says, he will be traveling to (Turunga) island on a Solomon Islands patrol boat later today accompanied by several other police officers and the officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Honiara.

Meanwhile, Mr. (Harmo) has refuted reports that there has been another cross-border raid this week by PNG defense forces on Choiseul Island in the Solomon Islands territory. Mr. (Harmo) says his men at the border have not reported any such incident.